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Near East & South Asia

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LD1101135189 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Clashes continued between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah 10-11 January, with Amal sources reporting "fierce attacks" by their forces on Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Al-Luwayzah, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Estimated casualties from the fighting have risen to 103 dead and 192 wounded.

All attempts by Syria and Iran to settle the conflict have thus far proved futile, the radio said.

In Damascus, visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati gave President Hafiz al-Asad a message from the Iranian president calling for Iranian-Syrian cooperation to end the Amal-Hizballah conflict, IRNA reported.

The Syrian leader likewise affirmed the need for joint efforts to end the clashes and stressed that "nothing can mar" Syrian-Iranian relations.

In a related development, Besharati met with Hizballah leaders in the Syrian capital, Tehran television noted.

Israel

Foreign Relations—Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a visiting delegation of the European parliament not to teach Israel about morals and he accused the European Community of paying lip service to the cause of Palestinian refugees while failing to assist them financially, according to IDF and Jerusalem radio reports.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir rejected European calls for talks with the PLO, telling the delegation the Arabs have "completely different" values from Israelis, as witnessed by the current slaughter among Lebanese Shi'ites, THE JERUSALEM POST noted.

As for Shamir's remark he is willing to consider UN auspices for peace talks, the director general of Shamir's office stressed the prime minister is considering a limited UN role, similar to that of the United Nations in the Iran-Iraq peace talks, the POST noted.

Territories—Reporting the murder of another West Bank villager, Jerusalem radio cited Arab sources who said the man was probably killed on suspicion of collaborating with the authorities. Meanwhile, 10 people were wounded by IDF gunfire in various incidents.

Iran

Khomeyni Message—In a message to oil industry workers broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni acclaimed their efforts to maintain output during the war and expressed hope that oil, gas, and petrochemicals plants will be fully operational "in the not too distant future."

On the development of the postwar economy, Khomeyni expressed confidence that the Iranian people will opt for "tolerating hardship with independence" rather than "consumerism and comfort."

Foreign Relations—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze discussed his "forthcoming visit to Tehran" during a recent meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Paris, Tehran radio reported.

Velayati welcomed the Soviet proposal on the eradication of chemical weapons, saying Iran supports the Soviet initiative "more than anybody else."

On relations with Great Britain, THE TEHRAN TIMES criticized Britain's decision to link an improvement in relations with the issue of hostages in Lebanon, stating that such "threats" are aimed at slowing the pace of improving relations, according to IRNA.

"Threats can also be met by threats," the paper said, but it would be "preferable" if the two sides exchanged "friendly feelings."

Afghanistan

At a press briefing in Moscow reported by TASS, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov told journalists that circumstances could arise in which the Soviet Union will be "unable" to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan as it has "in principle, decided to do."

He contended that if the mujahidin reject talks with both the Afghan Government and the USSR this can only mean they intend to continue the war.

However, a political settlement in Afghanistan "is totally realistic and attainable" if reason is shown by all sides, he said.

In Kabul, PDPA "hardliners" have rejected any compromise with the Afghan resistance and are preparing to fight on, according to diplomatic sources cited by AFP.

The report added that a petition to this effect has been circulating among Afghan Army officers.

On the security situation, AFP reported that the mujahidin have captured the town of Goshta as well as security posts around Kama.

However, TASS said the opposition are "sustaining heavy losses", losing more than 100 dead in the past 24 hours in Baghlan Province and Khowst District.

Kabul radio reported that a bomb explosion in Herat killed one citizen and injured seven others.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Session Postponed Until 12 Jan

NC1001183489 Paris AFP English 1825 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 10 (AFP)—An Arab League ministerial meeting on Lebanon and Libya scheduled for Wednesday will be postponed for a day to allow Arab foreign ministers currently in Paris to attend, officials at League headquarters here said Tuesday.

They said the emergency session to discuss a Lebanese political stalemate and last week's U.S. shooting down of two Libyan jets over the Mediterranean would take place on Thursday.

Most of the Arab foreign ministers expected to attend the Tunis meeting are currently in Paris taking part in a conference on chemical warfare due to end Wednesday afternoon.

This, officials here said, was the cause for the postponement of the League session.

The session was initially called to discuss Lebanon which has been without a president since September 23, following the Lebanese parliament's failure to find a successor to President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Libya then asked the Arab League to hold an emergency session to discuss the U.S. downing of two of its fighters last Wednesday over the Mediterranean.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Views Relations with U.S.

PM0901112089 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 3 Jan 89 pp 1, 15

["Text" of roundtable between PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, and a group of visiting American university teachers in Riyadh on 2 January]

[Text] At the beginning of the conversation Abu 'Ammar answered a question about his view of the future in light of the casualties suffered by the Palestinian people. He said: The losses in the uprising alone until this morning total 365 dead, 3,400 cases of miscarriage of pregnant women, 19,000 wounded including over 5,000 disabilities, and 28,000-29,000 detainees in detention camps, not to mention the crimes committed against our mosques and churches and the Palestinian and Lebanese victims killed in air raids and military operations in southern Lebanon. Just for your information, in the invasion and siege of Beirut 72,000 people were killed or wounded, two-thirds of them Palestinians and the rest Lebanese.

What happened in Beirut, however, was very important. They had imagined— in his memoirs, Alexander Haig said that he, Sharon, and General Etain had planned to complete that "dirty work" within 3 or 4 days, but what actually happened? [sentence as publishcd] The result was the longest ever Arab-Israeli war of attrition, which has continued from 1982 to this day in southern Lebanon. This means that the old theory that the Israeli enemy could begin and end a war within 6 or 11 days or within 6 hours collapsed when they [the Israelis] faced the smallest Arab military force. Although we have no fighter planes, the war has continued for 6 years.

Frankly, I say that if Israel does not take this opportunity and accept the peace initiative I announced in Geneva, the future will be extremely dangerous. There is no such thing as a blitzkrieg. We should bear in mind the battles fought near Basra between the Iraqis and the Iranians. In one battle alone 200,000 people were killed in 12 days. That is the kind of war that will break out if the military clique does not respond to our peace initiative. Now all kinds of weapons have been stockpiled in this region, including long-range missiles, aircraft, nuclear bombs, and so on. Nobody will be able to control the next war.

That is why when we talk about peace we fully understand what the next war would mean. It would be a catastrophe. This is why we insist on peace. When I announced my initiative in Geneva I said that I was looking for a new De Gaulle among the Israelis and that if such a person could not be found we must look for a new Ian Smith: Otherwise the new Israeli military clique will push the entire region into a perpetual war and Europe, at least, would suffer, as would all U.S. interests.

Take the Suez Canal closure as an example. What was the result? Just imagine if another war broke out. There would be hundreds of thousands of casualties. We could work together to avoid such a catastrophe and fulfill international legitimacy.

[Question] You have held a session of talks with the Americans, to be followed by other sessions at the end of this month or the beginning of February. What were the positions, policies, and attitudes of the Americans that you found unacceptable during the talks? Perhaps you could help us analyze them, as intellectuals who address the public on matters related to the current role and situation and also to the coming period.

['Arafat] It was not the first dialogue between us. An important dialogue began between us and the U.S. Administration in 1974 in Morocco. The U.S. delegation was led by Vernon Walters. Then there was another dialogue in Beirut.

Then I personally met with some Americans in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with the secret agreement, announced by Kissinger, between the Americans and the PLO.

It is regrettable that despite the decision made under pressure from Kissinger himself, he resumed his opposition to such a dialogue. Incidentally, I have a message from Kissinger himself but I do not wish to enter into a secondary confrontation with Kissinger or anyone else. In that message he thanks me for helping on two occasions in the evacuation of the American families totaling some 10,000 people. The first time was across the mountains in 1967 and the second through the coast.

Moreover, we must also remember what happened to the U.S. hostages in Tehran. [Fatah] Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan was our ambassador in Tehran at the time. He personally released the first 13 hostages.

He also gave President Carter valuable advice, urging him not to have too many mediators, lest the entire thing collapse, but Carter did not heed that advice. So what happened? We had planned it well and actually managed to ensure the release of 13 hostages easily. So why should we not have intervened if 'Arafat managed to secure the release of these hostages? Perhaps you know what happened after that. I sent Bishop Capucci to bring back the bodies of the soldiers who died in the desert during the military operation.

We do not wish to say that my own guards—that is, Force 17—were officially in charge of guarding the U.S. Embassy, but you can check with your own ambassador to verify that. These are examples of what we did. On the other hand, in 1981 the 18-day major confrontation took place between us and the Israeli army in southern Lebanon and the Israelis requested a truce. Philip Habib was the mediator between me and the Israelis. A truce was achieved and we reached agreement on a permanent truce, but what happened after that?

The U.S. Administration was the side which violated the agreement through Alexander Haig, Sharon, and Etain using as an excuse the attempt on the life of the U.S. ambassador in London. The PLO had nothing to do with that incident. The person behind it was a young extremist called Abu Nidal, who even killed some of my own colleagues. He killed Dr 'Isam al-Sartawi, who worked all along for a dialogue between us and the Israelis. Many others were killed.

The military operation against Beirut and the siege of Beirut followed. The Israelis thought they could control everything and that they would be able to tighten their grip on everything the minute I left Beirut, but what happened? They have now discovered that we control the stonethrowing youths and everyone is paying the price now.

All the terrorists who had some control when I was in Beirut....nobody can control them since my departure from Beirut. That is exactly what I said would happen when leaving Beirut but nobody listened to me. When I left Beirut I said that the volcano and the tornado would not stop. I had the situation under control but now some Iranians and Syrians are in charge and everyone is paying the price.

Alexander Haig and Sharon had planned to control everything the moment I left, but what happened? The result of the crime which began in 1982 is that nobody can control Lebanon.

[Question] Are you optimistic about the future of relations between the PLO and the U.S. Administration; do you think the U.S. Administration will pull you in one direction or another and not deal with you directly; and does the Israeli leadership want to deal with you?

['Arafat] A recent Israeli opinion poll shows that 54 percent of Israelis have accepted my initiative. That is a significant percentage. Some 20,000 Israelis participated in the demonstration in Tel Aviv last Saturday. That is what I am after.

The Israeli military clique is moving against the course of history. The Israelis lived in Jewish ghettos in Europe. Who would believe that they are now building new quarters in Israel? They fled the Jewish quarters in Europe and they are now by choice building new quarters and have elected the new Khomeynis—the Jewish Khomeynis who won 18 seats in the Knesset. Why? Because they evade the real truth. They have run away from the truth

[Question] We hope the European and North American states will promptly recognize the Palestinian state, but I believe it is going to take some time. What are your expectations?

['Arafat] The Palestinian state has been recognized by 104 states which voted for me at the United Nations. At present the Palestinian state has observer status at the United Nations. When the conference of nonaligned states convenes, the majority of Latin American countries will vote in my favor. Do not forget that the movement has a nine-member committee formed especially to support the Palestinian cause. So I have no problem in this connection.

To date 92 states have officially recognized the Palestinian state and 104 states have voted in my favor and I expect their official recognition. I believe the other states will recognize the Palestinian state in a few months or years. It is not a question of recognizing a declaration but of recognizing the land, the territory of an independent state, where my people will live in peace away from killing and terrorism, away from state terrorism, without being treated as vermin.

[Question] What kind of relations do you expect to maintain with George Bush after he becomes president in January. Do you see a possibility of better relations with him than with Reagan?

['Arafat] I hope so. Frankly Bush is a man you can deal with. It was certainly difficult to deal with a leader of one of the two superpowers who did not know anything about

international politics. I do not want to repeat stories of what happened. It has been said that on his way to meeting with some African leaders he took with him documents concerning a Latin American leader. That is a disaster.

Here is an important story. I had an agreement with his envoy Philip Habib. Hani al-Hasan had met with him and one of his aides during the Beirut siege. We concluded a written agreement under which I handed Beirut over to the multinational force—the U.S., British, Italian, and French contingents—but what happened was unbelievable and an insult not to me but to U.S., British, Italian, and French honor.

The agreement stipulated that once I had left Beirut I would be given a "political incentive" by the U.S. Administration. I do not really like that phrase because there is no such thing as political incentive, but I agreed and then the Reagan initiative contributed two significant points: PLO participation in any peace initiative and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

But what happened next? Kissinger interfered and changed the initiative from what it was into a link with Jordan. He then wrote his famous article saying: Why should we follow the PLO, which is finished? How stupid!

It is a question of 6 million Palestinians. The Americans have pampered their child far too much, but how long can this continue? U.S. President Eisenhower was able to tackle a whole issue that involved not only the Israelis but also the French and the British. He told them: You must withdraw within 38 hours.

On the question of the dialogue and who opposed it, Kissinger was the only one who said "no." His policy was wrong. Incidentally, for your information, I once saved Kissinger's life, when some extremists armed with missiles were awaiting the arrival of his plane in Beirut. We heard about it, discovered them, and contacted the embassy at the last moment; we told them the plane should not land in Beirut and it was diverted to an airport in Al-Biqa' in the east.

'Arafat Meets European Parliamentary Council Group

NC1001203589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1903 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met at Cairo airport this evening with the delegation of the liaison group of the European Parliamentary Council led by Miguel Martinez, which is currently visiting Cairo as part of a 10-day tour of Jordan, Syria, and Israel.

The meeting was attended by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

Following the 2-hour meeting with the European group, 'Arafat telephoned President Husni Mubarak and thanked him for his efforts in bringing about this meeting within the framework of the peace efforts Mubarak is exerting in favor of the Palestinian issue.

Before leaving Cairo, 'Arafat told reporters this meeting is part of the efforts aimed at organizing an international parliamentary conference with the participation of the Arab countries, the PLO, Israel, and the permanent member states in the Security Council as a model for an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

He said the idea of convening an international parliamentary conference to be attended by the parties to the conflict as well as the Security Council members is an initiative made by the European Parliament. This conference is expected to convene in May or June on a parliamentary level.

'Arafat described his talks with the European delegation as useful and constructive. He said they dealt with several issues, primarily the means to establish a genuine peace in the region. He stressed the Palestinian concept of peace is contingent upon an international conference to be convened on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He pointed in a clear and definite way to the declaration of an independent Palestinian state on the basis of Resolution 181.

'Arafat went on to say he explained to the European delegation that peace can be established on the basis of the PNC resolutions, noting he has asked for support from Europe in view of its major and important role in pressuring Israel to agree to attend an international conference for peace in the Middle East with the aim of reaching a true peace in the region.

In his name and on behalf of the Palestinian people and the Executive Committee, 'Arafat expressed thanks for Mubarak's initiative in providing this opportunity to hold these fruitful and constructive talks with the European parliamentary group at Cairo Airport.

He said he had invited the European delegation to visit Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj to assure themselves of the big lie spread by the American information media when they announced that he had received Palestinian threats.

He also called on the delegation members to visit Palestinians in the occupied land, to see for themselves on the spot the inhuman and terrorist Israeli actions against women and children.

In a statement to journalists, Miguel Martinez thanked President Husni Mubarak for his initiative in arranging this meeting, which produced several positive results.

He said the European delegation's meeting with President Mubarak and 'Arafat will help the European Community formulate its concept of how to promote the peace process in the Middle East.

The chairman of the European delegation praised Yasir 'Arafat's sincere efforts to establish peace in the region. He said 'Arafat's views are not new to the delegation, which is considered the European Parliament's ad hoc committee on peace affairs in the Middle East. This committee constantly follows up 'Arafat's views and the PNC meeting results.

In his statement, Martinez stressed Europe believes the time has come to do something definite to establish peace in the region. Europe also does not want the two superpowers to monopolize the peace process in the Middle East, but wants everybody to work together to achieve peace. He noted that the program of the European delegation during its current tour is set by the officials of the states it will be visiting, whether in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, or Israel.

On the possibility of the delegation visiting the occupied West Bank, the European official said he cannot ask to visit a specific place. However, he will meet with a number of parliamentarians in these states, as well as with PNC members during his visit to Jordan, he said.

People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rifa't al-Mahjub, who attended the meeting, also spoke. He said the European delegation's program was amended at the request of the delegation. This prompted President Mubarak to arrange this meeting between the delegation and 'Arafat.

PLO's Hurani Comments on Dialogue with U.S.

LD1001232389 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Brother 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, said it is unlikely that the U.S. dialogue with the PLO would soon solve the differences in both sides' views on the international conference on peace in the Middle East and the PLO's participation in it.

He confirmed there is still a big gap between viewpoints and that the recent Tunis meeting is only an opening of dialogue and the start of Palestinian-U.S. relations. In a press interview he said he expects the U.S. dialogue with the PLO will last for a long time and might stretch until after the international conference was held.

He expressed the hope that the dialogue would be resumed with the start of a new U.S. Administration, or at least take a serious course, considering that the first meeting in Tunis was no more than the exposition by each side of its known point of view.

PFLP-GC 'Source' on Hizballah-Amal Fighting

JN1001184389 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Jan 89

[A statement by a "responsible PFLP-GC source on the battles currently raging between Hizballah and the Amal Movement"; date, place not given]

[Text] From time to time the Lebanese nationalist ranks witness bloody conflicts between the comrades standing in the same trench. These conflicts have been currently demonstrated by the ongoing infighting between the brothers in Hizballah and the Amal Movement—the infighting which has extended to cover southern Lebanon, the steadfast bastion in the face of the Zionist enemy, and its allies in the border strip.

We in the PFLP-GC, proceeding from our militant position, condemn the fratricidal fighting between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. We feel this infighting represents a dissipation of the militant capabilities of those belonging to the same ranks and affirm at the same time this infighting will benefit no party other than the Zionist enemy as well as the enemies of Lebanon—the enemies of its Arabism and unity.

We in the PFLP-GC call upon the comrades in arms in Hizballah and the Amal Movement to immediately halt the infighting to stop the bloodshed and to preserve the militant accomplishments scored by the Lebanese nationalist ranks. A halt to the bloodshed would foil the schemes of the enemies of Lebanon who are lying in wait to undermine the heroic Lebanese resistance and to also undermine the joint Palestinian-Lebanese struggle.

We in the PFLP-GC affirm at this fateful stage that rifles, all rifles, must be directed toward the Zionist enemy and its agents to accomplish the militant missions to defeat the isolationist-Zionist scheme and expel the Zionist usurper from heroic southern Lebanon and the Arab land of Palestine.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Egypt

PLO's Yasir 'Arafat Arrives in Cairo 10 Jan

NC1001163089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo from Aden this evening. He was received at the airport by Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee; Sa'id Kamal, PLO representative in Cairo; and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Leaves Cairo 10 Jan

NC1001193989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, left Cairo for Tunis this evening following a 2-day visit to Egypt. Abu Mazin arrived in Cairo from Baghdad yesterday morning.

Soviet Energy Minister Arrives in Cairo 11 Jan

NC1101071389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification, arrived here early this morning. He is paying a 6-day visit to Egypt in response to an invitation by Energy Minister Eng Mahir Abazah.

The Soviet minister said upon his arrival that during his visit he will take part in the celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the construction of the High Dam, which will begin later today in Aswan.

'Sources' on Objections to Israeli Peace Plans

PM1001115389 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 89 p2

[Unattributed report: "Cairo Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Egypt Rejects Any Israeli Peace Plan Which Ignores PLO"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Informed sources have stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that any Israeli peace plan that relies on participation of only Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] cannot succeed because events have proved that the Palestinians inside are committed to PLO decisions and Israel has no right to say whom it should negotiate with.

The sources said Egypt told Israel in recent contacts that it was not prepared to receive or discuss any Israeli plan or initiative that ignores the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, particularly after the start of U.S.-PLO talks, and that Israel must accept the idea of an international conference and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that Egypt told Israel its occupation of Arab territory for 21 years has failed to break the back of the Palestinian resistance and that its only option is to accept peaceful coexistence with the states of the region and give the Palestinians their right to self-determination. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders Condemn Downing of Planes

PM1001152989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jan 89 p4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Party Leaders Criticize Downing of Two Libyan Aircraft"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Political party leaders in Egypt have unanimously rejected the U.S. justification for shooting down two Libyan aircraft over international waters last Wednesday. They argued the need to contain the incident and prevent any further escalation to avert its potential effects on peace in the region. They express their rejection of the U.S. attitude in different ways and various forms of criticism, however.

Emphasizing the New Wafd Party's rejection of U.S. aggression against any Arab state, the party's parliamentary committee head, Yasin Siraj al-Din, pointed out that his party is against any of these states embarking on acts aimed at provoking another state such as the United States.

He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: If this dangerous situation is not dealt with quickly, it could escalate and worsen. Obviously, incidents of this sort can lead to the spread of disturbances in the region. He proposed that the United Nations form an international technical committee to visit and inspect the Libyan plant. [passage omitted]

As for 'Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi, he emphasized his party's condemnation of the U.S. aggression and protest against the U.S. Administration's oppressive act, which is bound to threaten peace in the region and harm U.S.-Arab relations. [passage omitted]

Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad affirmed his party's condemnation of U.S. aggression against the two Libyan aircraft, which violates international conventions, as it constitutes a prelude to another U.S. aggression. He added: No one can say the two Libyan aircraft were attacking an aircraft carrier carrying more than 70 aircraft.

NPUG leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din also condemned the U.S. aggression against the two aircraft, describing it as a clear provocation by the U.S. Administration aimed at Libya. He pointed out to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that his party condemns the U.S. attitude and supports the Libyan people in defending themselves.

Socialist Labor Party Deputy Leader Ahmad Mujahid described the U.S. aggression against the Libyan aircraft as blatant aggression.

He added: It is the duty of the Arab peoples and governments to unite in the face of this irresponsible attitude. It is now essential that the issue of the U.S. military presence in the Mediterranean be reconsidered, especially as we are entering the stage of international detente and trying to establish peace in the region by restoring Palestinian rights. Such aggression will not do any good for the efforts aimed at resolving the Palestinian problem and restoring peace to the region.

Farid 'Abd al-Karim, representative of the founders of the Nasirite Party, said: The new U.S. aggression is a crime against the Arab nation as a whole. It proves the United States has given itself the right to attack this nation, one state after another. He warned against standing with hands tied in the face of frequent U.S. aggression. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Issue Statement on Elections

JN1001205789 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
9 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Text] The opposition party leaders have called on the citizens to participate with them through all legitimate and democratic means for the sake of issuing legislation that provides the necessary guarantees for holding free, honest elections.

The heads of the opposition parties also called on citizens to confront all the economic and political challenges and dangers facing the country internally and externally.

Al-Wafd Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, Labor Party leader Eng Ibrahim Shukri, NPUG Party leader Khalid Muhyi al-Din, and Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad met at Al-Wafd Party headquarters yesterday. The meeting was attended by some members of the opposition parties' leaderships, including Al-Wafd Secretary General Ibrahim Faraj, Al-Wafd deputy leader Dr Nu'man Jum'ah, NPUG Central Committee Assistant Secretary Dr Rif'at al-Sa'id, Al-Wafd Higher Committee members 'Ali Salamah and 'Abd al-Mun'im Husayn, Liberal Party Deputy Secretary Muhammad 'Abd al-Shafi, Labor Party deputy leader Ahmad Mujahid, and AL-WAFD newspaper Chief Editor Mustafa Sharadi.

At the conclusion of their meeting, the opposition party leaders issued a statement to the people on the required guarantees to choose real representatives of the nation in the legislative councils. The statement stressed the need to entrust all stages of the election process to the judiciary and to charge the Court of Cassation with full responsibility to issue a final verdict regarding election rebuttals.

The opposition party leaders also called for the cancellation of the present voters' lists and for accepting the voter's personal identity or civil registration card when voting. They stressed the need to redivide the constituencies and to severely punish those rigging, manipulating, or influencing elections. The statement also called for the cancellation of the emergency law or its suspension during the elections and for the release of all political detainees.

The following is the text of the opposition party leaders' statement to the people:

In continuation of our joint and continuous work, for the sake of realizing a sound democracy and guaranteeing public freedoms and human rights, in confirmation of the people's right to choose their real representatives in the parliamentary councils, and on the occasion of the president's announcement that the independent ticket election system will be adopted in elections to the Consultative Council, we heads of the opposition parties met and discussed the matter and drew the conclusion that what matters is not only holding elections on the basis of an independent ticket, but also providing several guarantees which we had earlier announced in our newspapers and meetings, and which were crystallized in our conference on 5 February 1987.

For the elections to honestly express the people's opinion in choosing their true representatives, we mention at the top of these guarantees the following:

Firstly: To refer all stages of the election process to the judiciary, to make the executive authority take its hand off the voting process and the sorting out and announcing of the results, and to entrust the Court of Cassation with the task of issuing final verdicts regarding election rebuttals.

Secondly: To cancel the current voters' register lists because they do not represent the real voters. They should be reorganized in accordance with the civil status register. Voting should take place when the voter presents his personal identity card or his civil registration card and signs the voters' register.

Thirdly: To redivide constituencies along objective lines with the knowledge of committees in which the political parties participate.

Fourthly: To severely punish any rigging of, manipulating, interfering in, or influencing of elections.

Fifthly: To abolish the emergency law, or, at least, to suspend it during the election period and to release all political prisoners.

Sixthly: The necessity of unifying the election systems for all the local and parliamentary councils. To achieve this, we have prepared a draft law to amend the election

laws and the law regulating the exercise of political rights, which we will be presenting to the People's Assembly through the opposition deputies.

Let all the people know that these guarantees are not enough to achieve the aspired democratic society. They alone are not the protectors against any dangers threatening the development, security, and stability of the citizen. There are still numerous situations, exercises, and laws which make the present democracy incomplete.

This necessitates canceling the state of emergency which has continued for over 8 years, dropping all laws that restrict freedoms, and ensuring the rights of the citizens to form parties and societies, to publish and own newspapers, and to hold meetings, demonstrate, and stage peaceful strikes. The world today is witnessing an expansion of democracy in all its parts.

We call on the citizens to work with us in all legitimate means and ways until legislation providing guarantees for free and honest elections are issued in order to confront all the internal and external economic and political challenges and dangers facing the nation.

It is God who grants success.

Polisario Members' Movement in Cairo Restricted

JN1001175089 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jan 89 p 1

[Text] AL-WAFD has learned that the government has recently restricted the movement of Polisario Front members in Cairo in an attempt to check their contacts with the Egyptian mass media and maintain the present brotherly relations between Egypt and Morocco.

The government has recently expressed the hope that the current talks between Moroccan King Hassan II and the front's representatives would be successful. Egypt had earlier stressed its rejection of all attempts to partition the territory of the Kingdom of Morocco. It also rejected attempts to make it recognize the so-called "Saharan Arab Republic."

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Basic People's Congresses

LD1001121289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1818 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Address by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Basic People's Congresses in Tripoli—live]

[Text] Good evening and welcome. How are you? We are at the beginning of the meetings of the basic people's congresses, which are aimed at discussing this year's agenda before the General People's Congress meets to draft its resolutions to determine the Jamahiriyah's domestic and foreign policy for this year.

We do not really need someone to explain the agenda to us—which I have repeatedly asserted. Now the congresses are able to draw up the agenda and discuss it. The radio has, however, discussed a few things which we can contribute to the agenda of and the discussion at the Basic People's Congresses. That is why I thought it would be better for me to attend this meeting of the Basic People's Congress of city of (Al-Andalus).

There are some very important things which I thought I should talk about before you decide on them—things which I am afraid you might miss. There are laws upon which we should base our lives—laws which are very important and which will influence our lives and our children's lives and future—to which we would like to draw the attention of all the basic people's congresses throughout the Jamahiriyah this evening as their meetings get underway to discuss the agenda. Before we make any further steps in the agenda, there are few things—and it is my right to suggest this- - which we should talk about first and to which we should draw the others' attention. We should examine and explain the importance of such things to you.

The question of the agenda—naturally, the whole agenda is important; however, these things especially need to be brought to your attention. For the moment let us leave the confrontation between Washington and Al-Rabitah and the like far behind. We will talk about the agenda. [applause] The first important topic on the agenda to which we like to draw your attention is to discuss when the bill submitted to the people's congresses should be brought into force. [unidentified voice speaks, Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] This is enough. [applause] There are suitable words for every occasion.

This is the law to strengthen freedom. This subject is clear, and we have talked about it, and some measures were taken in its regard; however, now we want to codify this question of how freedom is to be strengthened by law and legislation. We cannot simply say that people have become free in Libya, that prisons have been demolished, that borders have been abolished, that people are free, and leave it at that. Legislation is necessary to make all this a reality before the courts and before the administration—thus the need for the law of freedom submitted to the people's congresses and the rest of the bills.

The popular masses' time should not be wasted, nor should they be involved in the details of the law, article by article. The people do not debate the articles. The people lay down the spirit or the essence of the law, the people decree: We want such and such a law. The form of the law is defined by the experts. Just like when you decide to have a table. You decide to have a table, then the carpenter builds the table—a dining table, for example—the carpenter knows how to build it.

This was your decision; you wanted a table. It is your own decision, your own request, and your own right, but the technician makes it; you don't. It is the same for the

law. Say we want a law whereby freedom is consolidated. We say: We want people to be free. Then legal specialists come and say what we have said is called Article 1, this is Article 2, that is Paragraph 1,000, that is Paragraph B, and so on and so forth.

I am talking about the core of this principle of consolidating freedom, which we should discuss and then submit as a bill. In my opinion, speaking from our experience, freedom can be consolidated by the following, by a law which includes the following things:

First, equality between citizens and protecting their dignity and freedom. This is the first thing. Equality should be confirmed by law. Why? So that when someone makes a mistake, as one would say, and does not practice equality among people, he will be punished by law. The victim can lodge a complaint with the people's court over an infringement of the law consolidating freedom. I am supposed to be equal with this person according to this law, but so and so practiced inequality. He lodges such a complaint with the people's court, which renders its judgment on these issues and sees whether or not a crime was really committed.

First of all, we should, by law, regard....[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] It has already been decided that we should speak about equality, but we should confirm it with a law so that whenever we are victims of inequality, as one would say, we lodge a complaint with the court, and the latter has a law before it and says: No, people are equal. How could you practice inequality? So, you are breaking the law. What would the verdict be? It is what you will decide in this law.

Equality between the citizens is normally in accordance with the Great Green Document of Human Rights in the era of the Jamahir, which you had issued at the Basic People's Congresses. Equality between citizens and the protection of their dignity and freedom are sacred issues. One should confirm that people's dignity and freedom should not be harmed. Later on one might say that this should be within the limits of law, that freedom is not absolute, and that it stops where other people's freedom starts. Never mind about that. Lawyers will know then how to formulate this article, but its core is equality. Equality should be set between people, and people's dignity and freedom should not be violated.

If we guarantee in Libya that our dignity is protected, our freedom is protected, and that we are equal in our country, this will be a great victory because before now we always felt as if we were suffering from injustice. What is injustice? It is inequality. We were not equal in our rights regarding our country's oil. We were not equal in jobs. We were not equal in health services. We were not equal in education.

A person causes society an expense or steals from society, sends his children abroad for education while we the poor, who do not know someone with influence, cannot educate our children abroad. This is inequality in education. We must have equal treatment in education. It does not mean all Libyans but we must accept that if someone wants to learn abou the laser or the atom, then he should go abroad so that he can serve all of us.

If particular scientific subjects are available here and someone is taking a specialization course, then he should remain here. As long as the relevant items are available here, then he should not go abroad. This is determined not according to personal whims but according to the needs of society. We want 1,000 students to study the desalination of sea water, the use of the atom in the desalination of sea water. These will not be learning for themselves but for us.

However, there used to be someone who, with his own money and his own wish, went abroad to study subjects which you do not really need here but he wants to study subjects which appeal to him and which he can utilize in working in the United States, Italy, or Hong Kong. (?He is not) sftudying these subjects at our expense. There should be equality in education, in knowledge, and the right to acquire knowledge. There should be equality in health care. One person is treated and another is not. One person takes our money and goes and uses it in his treatment or uses his influence to obtain treatment (?abroad). This is unjust. You must draw up bases which we approve under which anyone who deserves to receive treatment abroad will go to receive it, and if he does not, then he will not receive it.

There should be equality. [interrupted by chanting] Okay, people should be made equal through laws issued by the people's congresses with their own free will and freedom and without trusteeships or middlemen. We are talking about equality among people and about not harming their dignity and freedom. These are some of the things.

The second point in this law is that every citizen is free to decide his own destiny and enjoy his freedom and exercise authority and express himself about what he wishes to express at people's congresses.

It means that here we freely decide our own destiny. There is no one to decide our destiny on our behalf. Everyone of us is free to decide his own destiny, to express this, to make this clear, and decide this in the basic people's congresses. Everyone is free to express himself [applause] as in the Green Book. No one should be deprived—this is an important point concerning national service, defense—every citizen.... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] I mean no citizen should be deprived of the honor of defending the homeland. Some strange things may commence, but freedom is necessary. At the same time, no Libyan should be forced to defend the homeland if he renounces his rights and national benefits, [words indistinct]. This is something which did not exist before.

By God, you are not compelled to defend Libya; if you do not want to defend it you are free not to. You are free. If you want to defend it, all right, it's your country. If you do not want to defend it, you are free. But, in return for not defending Libya you renounce the rights and benefits derived from this country. You can say: I do not want my political or social rights, or the social and political benefits from Libya. Consequently, exempt me from national service. You are free! In return, you cannot say: Give me that, give me a subsidized item, give me electricity, give me a job. You dispensed with this homeland, you do not even care about defending it. That is an expression of freedom. You are free! You can say: I do not want anything from you; do not give me anything, and do not ask anything of me.

All right, you are free! You sign for a benefit, which will be distributed to the establishments concerned with these benefits. Every time you come to claim a benefit, we will say: No, you renounced those rights. Every time you come claiming a right, we will say: No, you renounced that right. The evidence for this is that you refused to undertake a duty; you renounced your rights. [passage indistinct] You are free. Just write: I do not want to defend the homeland; I want neither benefits nor rights from it! Consequently, let me be free; I do not want to defend it. Write that!

Of course, in reality no one should reach such a level as to renounce his rights, abandon his homeland, and deny himself the honor of defending it because the life of anyone who reaches such a level will be meaningless and without any value. However, let us suppose that someone reaches that level and does not want to furnish any more services to his homeland. All right, he is not compelled to do so, and nothing should be done against him. No citizen should be prevented from his honorable right to defend his homeland, while at the same time he should not be compelled to defend his homeland if he is prepared to relinquish his rights and national benefits. Every citizen should be free to determine his own fate and should have the right to freely exercise power and express whatever he wants through the basic people's congress.

Secret activities, imposing one's opinion through force, terrorism, and inducement should be met by isolation from the rest—this would resolve the problem of having prisoners of [word indistinct], prisoners of conscience, and political prisoners. We will have no more such prisoners. In the Jamahiriy society no one should be imprisoned because of his opinion or his political line. If you want something you should propose it to the people's congresses. If it is not reasonable they will reject it; if they do not want it, they will not accept it, and if they should like it, then they will adopt it. But if you know that such a thing will not be accepted by the people, and you try to impose it on them through other means, like inducement, force, secret work, and terrorism, this is not acceptable. In this case your freedom constitutes a danger to others; therefore, you should be isolated from the rest.

However, any new idea should be put forward. Someone might say: I am against graves or memorial shrines to Sidi 'Abd-al-Salam, [name indistinct] Sidi Mubrak and Sidi [name indistinct]. If he has a new idea, he should come and explain it to us. Maybe our society would say, as from today, if someone dies and you want to bury him, you should not erect a memorial shrine for him—there is no need to use glass and marble on his grave because he is dead anyway; leave all graves in the same condition. You should no longer visit 'Abd-al-Salam al-Asfar or whoever. You should no longer visit them as it is forbidden by Islam, and there is no need for it.

You should put such an idea forward, but you should not, however, conspire with other people and call upon them to impose such an idea. [Words indistinct] in this case you are not going to be respected, and neither is your opinion. Your beliefs or you ideas will not be respected; you will be treated like a terrorist and a thief. A guardian might open fire on you, and you will die just like a jackal or a dog which entered place to eat a corpse, semolina, or bread is killed by a guardian. If you have an idea, please come and put it forward.

There are, morever, some movements in Islam which claim to reform the Muslim situation and assert the same thing. [words indistinct]. There are other people who might suggest we should not address things like this; rather, we should address the confrontation with the United States and the Zionist enemy, we should address the unification of the Arab nation, industrialization of oil, the utilization of sea water and solar energy, and how we can overcome backwardness, poverty, illness, and our real enemies. Then in 1,000 years we might then be ready to discuss things like this, things which are not important like memorial shrines. Why should anyone be bothered by the existence of a shrine, even if there are thousands of them, or by the way someone has erected a shrine?

Is now the right time for this? Have we accomplished everything necessary before discussing these matters? This could be done in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries which have satisfied the needs of their peoples. They have industrialized their countries, achieved an advanced level of agriculture, and have provided everything. You can find them discussing other issues, which we might consider as abnormal, but for them it represents a need and so they debate them. To them it is reasonable, as they have no other problems. People have the right to walk about naked or clothed, for example. Of course, they have no other problems. If a person walked down the street naked, would you arrest him or is he free? At one time they said: He is free. People were originally naked, then they learned to put clothes on. They tried it for some time, then they returned to their senses and put on their clothes.

But is it rational for us to see someone put forward such ideas? He must be crazy, out of his mind. Is this the right time for it? Naturally, it is not. If it is reasonable in the

Scandinavian countries, it is not reasonable in a backward country facing other problems. They have other serious issues they are fighting for, and we should not fight over a tomb or a mausoleum or over a string of prayer beads. Is this the time for such things? This is what caused our 600 years of backwardness.

Six hundred years and the Islamic world is backward, and the heart of the Arab world is backward, because we have entered the labyrinth of sects and trivialities to the extent that they reached to the issue of whether the Koran was or was not created, whether the Koran was eternal, whether God was the author, and whether it predated everything. Look at these trivialities; people were killed, people were burned, books were burned, and efforts were wasted. Instead of directing their efforts toward medicine, astronomy, and other sciences, they continued their discussion of these issues for 600 years.

The sciences were adopted by the West and through them they acquired the force with which they are intimidating us. And we have only the yellow books debating whether the Koran was created, when the Koran was made, when the angels descended, whether there was one Eve or a thousand, whether God created Adam as a child or as a man, and if he was created as a man how old he was. Even if we knew the answers, what purpose can such information serve? We would not be able even to change the character of a child. Whether He created Adam at 40 years of age or at 70, so what? These things are past and gone, so why should I get involved in them? For 600 years they debated questions such as these. It was the era of decline. And even this is a period of decline, when an issue arises about prayer beads; is it allowed or not, shall we use prayer beads or not, is some shape of tomb allowed or not, is a particular dome allowed or not.

It all happened in Saudi Arabia and they regret it. Saudi Arabia came into existence not to [words indistinct]. In Saudi Arabia the Wahabi school of thought spread. [Words indistinct] was Mohammad 'Abdul Wahab, who was adopted by the Saudis and who founded their state upon his thoughts. This is their creed, you could say. The Jamahiriyah has the Green Book and the popular theory, or the Soviet Union speaks of the Marxism-Leninism, so in Saudi Arabia they speak of Wahabism. This is their conviction, and each has his own conviction. They have their ideology, and we have ours. This has called for the abolition of all things secular so that paganism will not return. Some people believed in it and they started destroying these things. Even the Qa'bah was to be destroyed by them. They said it was an idol and must be destroyed. All this talk was reasonable; however, its result turned out to be harmful in fact.

Now if we tell them that Muhammad—God's peace and blessing be upon him—was born in such and such a year, and lived in this or that place, some people come and say: Show me his place. We came to look for the place but we could not find it; the Wahabis (?destroyed it). We told them: He died on such and such a day. They said: This is a lie. It is fairy tale. There was no prophet who died in such and such a year. There is no other prophet after Jesus. You are lying. Where is this prophet Muhammad; where is his grave? We said here is his grave. They said: Who said that this is his grave? There is a mosque, (?a tomb inside) glass and marble, air conditioning units, and something green. They said: Who said this is the grave of the (?prophet)? You are lying. We told them about the battle of the Trench [battle during Muhammad's life], and that during that battle this and that incident took place, and that it was one of God's miracles. They asked where the trench is. It was very near. But we found it to be filled and on top of it they have built a house. At least we should say to them that the Trench which the Koran was talking about does exist. But it does not really exist now. Why? Because the Wahhabis said that any landmarks should be destroyed. This was used against us.

The house of 'Amr ibn al-'As used to exist. That should have been all right. He was one of the companions of the Prophet and is not a fairy tale. 'Amr ibn al-'As had actually existed and was one of the companions. He conquered North Africa and spread the cause of Islam and so on and so forth. They said: That is fine. We said: Show us his monument. They said: Here was his house. We found, however, that there is a hotel built in its place. They razed the house. [Words indistinct] All the things that represented landmarks have now been obliterated.

We cannot say Marx was a fairy tale. Why? Because the picture exists. His books exist and not only his books. They preserved the books which he used to read in Britain and Germany. He used to write notes in the margin of the page. He read them and made notes on them and left them behind. Today they are keeping them for posterity. You want to see Marx' handwriting? Here it is. It proves that Marx was a son of Adam and he existed. That is a fact. See the books and Marx' handwriting. Here it is. He was reading this book and here he wrote his notes. They used these things to show that he existed.

The Ottomans tried to take up this subject so that they take over the caliphate. They gathered so many things and said: Come, here is the place of 'Ali, and here is the sword of Muhammad, and here is the shirt of 'Uthman and here is a hair that belonged to the prophet. It exists in Aya Sofia. Naturally, this might be true and it might not be true. You cannot say anything about it. But at least they have proved that they have sacred things which show that there is a prophet and 'Umar ibn al-Khattab and 'Uthman and that he was actually assassinated and here is his shirt. These are not fairy tales.

We came along to tell them that 'Ali al-Ansari was in Baqrah and he was one of the companions. Afterward, to destroy his tomb cannot be right. When we do that, we cannot come and say [words indistinct]. The companions who were martyred in Darnah; they were (?seventy) including Zuhayr their leader; they were martyred in a

battle with the Romans; that is, when he was returning from Qairawan. If we come along and remo.e the graves of the companions in Darnah; and we later come and say that there have been companions here who died and were martyred here in battle, and here were their graves. Someone says: This is not true, where are they? But you at least (?left their graves intact).

I mean, do you have an idea to submit to us? [A member of audience says something indistinct to which Al-Qadhdhafi replies] Yes, it is possible. As for the pharaohs, had there not been the pyramids, we would not have been able to say that they were there. [words indistinct]. Who said that there had been pharaohs? The pyramids show (?in fact) that there had been pharaohs, there had been a pharaonic civilization, which had become a source of pride for Egypt and a high cultural center, because, there (?they have left) their vestiges. Even the Koran tells us to go and see their vestiges. God has left those vestiges on purpose so that we can learn a lesson from them. These vestiges are very important.

If you have an idea, submit it somewhere else. Submit it. Whether you convince them or not, it is the same thing. I spoke out. Whether I convinced them or not, I explained my idea. If you have an idea, speak out. What I mean is that we are consolidating freedom. We say that every citizen is free to determine his destiny, to enjoy his freedom, to exercise power, and to [words indistinct]. But clandestine action, terrorism, or instigation are punished by isolation. When one commits sabotage or similar acts, he should be isolated from [word indistinct]. The caravan moves on while the dogs bark. We are not ready to stop action, all of us, and keep wondering what this or that did [Words indistinct] if you want to commit acts of sabotage, come to the congresses and talk. But if you want to act behind our backs, we will isolate you and continue our march. These are among the things that consolidate freedom.

The freedom to create professional congresses and social leagues: We should be free to create any social league, any club, any association, any social institution, and any professional league, such as a congress, a trade union, etc. All workers are free to create, as they want, trade unions which defend their rights, unite them, and let them carry out their duties in the Jamahiri society.

Indeed, there are countries where it is forbidden to set up a free trade union, [word indistinct] the government. No, nothing, and there are conflicts about who is with the government and who is not. Here we are free: He who creates any club, any league, any profession, whose members set up any kind of association, is free, because basically there is no government of which we have to ask permission. We decide our own freedom; we confirm and consolidate it. We have no one elso whose permission we should ask, such as a government which feels it should grant us permission. There is no more granting us permission. We have to decide that any one of use is free to do this or that, but whoever does this or that against us as a free society, we will have to isolate him, or act against him in some way.

Consequently, as from now, there will be no one who can say there are still political prisoners in Libya. No, politics is exercised overtly at people's congresses. Only if you exercise something else are you considered a conspirator, not a politician. You will be considered a criminal and a conspirator because you are not exercising politics, but are exercising something having nothing to do with politics. If you exercise inducement, force, terrorism or secret work, you are no longer a politician, and you are no longer expressing your opinion. There should no longer be any prisoners of conscience or opinion.

If you have an opinion you can express it at the basic people's congresses, in the open, over the radio. Express your opinion before us. But if however you express you opinion through other platforms, you are no longer a man of conscience or opinion; you are a conspirator, [words indistinct] you are a sick man, and you should therefore be isolated from others like someone who has AIDS or something like it. Freedom of action should be without exploitation, without any infringement of public order or ethics, and without harming others materially or morally; that is, each one of us is free to do whatever work he likes, as a civil servant or a producer. Such work, however, should not lead to the exploitation of man by man, nor should it be against our ethics, or harm others materially or morally.

For example, you do not need proof for such things during later discussion. Someone sets up in business as a blacksmith or baker, or sets up a factory or a laboratory, from which the smoke might suffocate people. He says: I am free to do a productive job among houses, or in front of an educational establishment, a hospital, or in residential district, regardless of the smoke I make. Of course, people would start coughing, but he would still assert that he was free. We should say to him: No. You are free to work, and you can set up a factory to produce anything, but on one condition: You should not harm us. Your smoke harms a school, a hospital, a residential district, or your neighbor. Your smoke comes from the factory and goes to your neighbor's house.

You should set up your factory somewhere else, not here. I mean that from now, no one should set up a chimney near his neighbor's house and assert that he is free to do whatever he likes. Nor should you bring a vehicle or a car and park it in front of your neighbor's house in order to sell something, for in doing so you might block the entrance to his house. This would surely harm others; therefore, it is not permitted. It should not happen anyway. How can you can assert your freedom if such freedom is detrimental to everyone else.

Let us decide on a law which will consolidate freedom. The freedom of work without the exploitation of man by man and without any infringement of public order and ethics and without harming others materially or morally. I am talking about the spirit of a law which would consolidate freedom. The bill of such a law will, of course, be altered following the basic peoples congresses' discussions. Private ownership is sacred. But when is private ownership sacred? Only when you have acquired something through your own effort and you are not exploiting others by it. Moreover, it should be legal.

Someone might steal some animals and keep them. You might come to him, but he would assert that the animals are his and that private ownership is sacred. How can they be his private property? He has acquired them through theft. If someone steals some money and builds a house or a palace with it and asserts that this is my house, it is sacred, houses are protected and private ownership should be sacred, you should say no; you should ask him how he acquired the money for his palace. You should ask him whether or not he exploited others.

Did he steal or not? Did he pay any bribes or not? How did he acquire such a palace? So how did he acquire it? How can it have any sanctity? Private ownership's sanctity? Private ownership's sanctity can only be acquired through one's sweat; only if others are not exploited in it; only if it has not been stolen or acquired by paying bribes; and only if it does not constitute any danger to others or harm them materially or morally. If your private property harms other materially or morally [words indistinct].

A car is a private property; all right, it is private. [words indistinct] But that does not mean that someone can put two exhaust pipes on it to make noise in the streets and to emit smoke and disturb people a lot. In this case police, people's police, traffic wardens, or the town councils might come along and take the car away from him. Would this be a calamity and no longer private property, which is sacred? How can it be sacred it if harms and disturbs other people?

How can a person assert that he is free here. We should understand such things; which we are talking about here, so that no one will abuse the exercise of his freedom or the Green Document.

Private ownership is sacred only if it has been acquired through legal work and one's own efforts without the exploitation of others and only if it does not harm others materially or morally. It should not be confiscated save for a public cause and with just compensation. This is the private property which should justly be compensated. For example, when your private property has legally been acquired, it should be sacred. However, if public interest needs to take it away from you, you should be given equal compensation. Compensation should be just and equal to whatever has been taken away from you, so that you won't be worse off. [Unidentified voice from the hall asks Al-Qadhdhafi something, to which Al-Qadhdhafi agrees and asks someone to take from him more details; applause, chants]

Let us continue. We have asserted that private ownership is sacred only if it is acquired legally and through one's own efforts without the exploitation of others and does not harm them materially or morally. It should only be taken away from its owner in the public interest and with just compensation. Owners of such private property should be compensated.

Now we should decide on the freedom of the utilization of the land to satisfy one's needs without the exploitation of others. Libyan soil is the property of all Libyans; everyone has the right to use it to satisfy his own needs, without exploiting others. We should lay down a law on this land, so that we never again hear that people begin fighting among themselves whenever rain falls. There is no need for this. If you have land on which you want to cultivate barley, just do it. [words indistinct] Brothers, if every one of us asserts that this land is his; we will surely demolish the basis upon which our society is founded; namely, tribalism.

Suppose that some people come and say that an oil field, which you live on, is theirs because it is in their and their forefathers' land. That is it; you will no longer have any right to that oil. If we are going to divide a Libyan's land between [word indistinct], even oil exists in a determined district. What is the relation of (Zwarah) with the oil of Jalu? How could people in (Zwarah) benefit from it? We can find traces and benefits of this oil in (Zwarah), Tubruq, and Aozou, while it exists in Jalu [as heard].

Take Tripoli port which brings products and goods from abroad, and whose products could go as far as Sabhah. It is possible that this port is the property of a determined tribe or family in Tripoli who might say: This is mine, it was my grandfather's property. Why are you using it? Take Tripoli International Airport. A tribe among the four (?original) tribes might come and say this land belongs to them, and it surely did belong to a tribe originally. What happens then? Should we stop using it? I am saying this to people who take to one of the river valleys in (Mkhili), or Batnah, or Sawfajjin or anywhere else, and say we are going to have a fight over it. If you can say this belongs to us, it is possible that someone from the (Majruh) Valley in the Old City goes ploughing in a river valley called Bay, yes ploughing in there, because you, who live in Bay River valley, are benefiting from and using the accommodation belonging to the people in (Majru)h Valley or [word indinstinct]. How could you say this is mine, and that belongs to us all?

Someone might come from Surt and say to you: I have oil over there. How could you benefit from this oil, while when I come to plough in (Mkhili) you prevent from doing it, because (Mkhili) belongs to such and such tribe

[words indistinct]. No way. You can come and plough, because we are benefiting from and sharing the land which belongs to you and which has oil in it. All people must understand this, through a law.

The land belongs to all. The oil belongs to all. The sea belongs to all. Let us assume that it rained in a particular strip in Libya. The people to whom this land belongs on a tribal basis might say: Other Libyans cannot benefit from this rain; we are the only ones who will benefit from it. Never, this rain is like oil. Oil is like rain in a particular place, which is the Gulf, the Gulf of Surt. [word indistinct] in the Gulf of Surt might say: No, this rain came on us only, God has given it to us, and the others should not come near us.

If it rains in this region, in this river valley, such as Batnah, all Libyans can go and plough in Batnah. No one can tell them not to, this is not your land.

On this basis nobody has the right to say: Rain has fallen for me and this land is mine. In other words, does it mean that oil is also rain which has fallen for these people and that the land is theirs and that therefore we cannot benefit from it any longer and that it should be left without irrigation and so on, considering that all the wealth in Libya comes from oil? So far, you have not produced anything, even if you have it is thanks to oil. You must all understand this, and henceforth we do not want to hear people saying: This is our land and do not cultivate it. If you are from Tripoli and you have heard that rain has fallen in Surt and you want to cultivate the land there, there is no problem; you have the right to do so. Whatever the land, it must be (?allocated) to those who want to cultivate it, even it has to be (?divided) inch by inch. Property or nonproperty, this idea is no longer valid.

The Turkish stamp is valid in Istanbul, and any Libyan who has a document from the era of the Turks should go and present it in Ankara. [applause] Turkish stamps are not valid in Libya; neither are the stamps from Italy. Anyone who has these documents should correct them or take them to the Turks (applause), especially since the promulgation of the law on the socialist estate register which you adopted last year. A public department will be in charge of its implementation, and it will be called, for instance, the Department of Socialist Authentication. This means that any estate property which is not authenticated in the socialist estate register is considered illegal. We will only recognize property recorded in the new socialist register, and all the Libyans should be told of the new socialist estate register. This estate register means that anyone who has property should register it, be it a farm or a house, and if it is not recorded in this register no court in Libya will take your claim into account. You will not be considered the owner of this property.

This even applies to your farm. If you do not record it in the new register and then anyone else claims before the court that the farm is his, then you will not be able to prove otherwise because the court will only rule on the basis of this new law promulgated by the people's congresses. This property can be confiscated for the benefit of society as soon as this fact is established, and it will be regarded stolen property.

If your house is not recorded in the new register and someone goes to court and says: This is my house and I lived in it yesterday. The court cannot dispute that claim because your house is not recorded. The court might even confiscate it because it cannot establish who the owner is. Any property which is not recorded in the socialist register will be considered lost property, and subsequently the entire house will be confiscated and both you and the person who brings a case against you will be evicted. If you fail to register your house and someone brings a case against you and claims the house is his, do not be surprised when the court finds itself unable to rule that it is yours if it is not recorded in the new socialist register.

In this case, the house in dispute might be confiscated for the benefit of society. Even if you are living in it, you can be evicted because you failed to record it. The same applies to an unrecorded farm. If someone claims the farm is his, he can indeed take it. If he does not take it, the court might rule to confiscate the farm and incorporate it into a public agricultural project. Thus it will become the property of the entire society because nobody knows who owns it. If it is your farm and you have lived on it for 20 years, on the basis of this law you will not be regarded as its owner because you failed to record it. Why have you not recorded it in the new socialist estate register?

No reasons, documents, or [word indistinct] will be sufficient to confirm and notarize a property for its legal owner. It is not possible for you to come [words indistinct] and say [words indistinct]. You should register it yourself in the new socialist register. If they believe it is yours, they will register it. But if you try to bring [words indistinct], document, or witnesses they will still not be enough. So every citizen should benefit and register his real estate in the new socialist register; otherwise; they might be the subject of litigation in front of every claimant even a false one. [unidentified voice from the hall speaks to al-Qadhdhafi] I understand you, and it was a worthy observation.

The implementation of the death penalty in a very limited form was one of the clauses set out by the great Green Book, i.e. the implementation of the death penalty in a very limited way until it is abolished. Of course, we are struggling to abolish the death penalty. However, since the people's congresses have yet to abolish the death penalty, it should still be carried out, but only in a very limited form, as we said in this document, only when someone's life constitutes a danger or perversion to

the society. Then it should be his life and not his freedom. If there is any question about this, then he should be isolated. But if his life, even if he is isolated, still constitutes a danger and perversion to society, then the death penalty should be applied to him. [words indistinct]

We have given the example of a contagious cow. Although we have isolated it, the illness will still spread from the barn in which it is isolated to the surrounding area, and the wind might spread it elsewhere. In this instance, it should be executed right away [word indistinct], and the veterinarian would not mind. Each time he chooses an animal you should execute, you should not eat its meat; just execute it, burn it, and bury it. Why? Because everything from it might harm you. Even when it is dead, you should burn it.

A person whose life is harmful is exactly like a contagious animal. Even if you execute him, his illness could still spread to the surrounding air and soil.

Houses are sacred, this is a principle, except when they are used for hiding a crime or criminals or used in a way that is harmful to others materially or morally. If you use you house for such ends, it will lose its sanctity. It will be, excuse to me for saying so, like a bar and stable. It is no longer sacred.

The house is a sacred thing when it is used as a house. The house [words indistinct]. As long as it is a dwelling then it is respected. But if it is used to shelter a crime or criminals and if it is not used to cause harm; then one can say: My house is sacred. Suppose it is used to make harmful materials which are sold to people, to cause them harm. This house then becomes a factory and is no longer called a house. We say: Houses are sacred, but not factories. The factory which we built for medicines. They said: This constitutes a danger. The United States with all its greatness said: I want to destroy this factory. Look. Why? Because it is a factory that constitutes a danger. Even the factories which make atom bombs are dangerous, then we should destroy them.

And this is what should happen. If they destroy this factory then we should get ready to destroy anything American which we can (?reach). [applause]

OK, we must not go back to the question of Al-Rabitah and Washington once again. Houses have a right to be respected except when used to conceal a crime or to shelter criminals or used to cause harm to people, materially or morally. This means that a house should be respected, and its sacred nature should be respected; that is, if it is desired to keep it respected and sacred. If you exploit it for other things which cause harm, then it is no longer treated as a house.

The mosque was destroyed by the prophet. You know the mosque in Al-Madinah—the one which was mentioned in the Koran. Some people, knowing the mosque was a house of God, used it to conspire. The prophet came along and destroyed it while they were inside. He said: This mosque is harmful; so he destroyed it with those who were conspiring inside it.

It is forbidden to use any means of investigation that is humiliating to man, and that insults his dignity. It is known that when one is accused of something one is investigated to ascertain the fact—even in his own interest, or in society's interest, or in someone else's interest. We should arrive at the truth. This is because truth may be in the interest of the accused himself, or in the interest of the other party—whether the latter is a group or an individual. The means of interrogation, however, should not be humiliating to man and should not insult his dignity. The punishment is personal—this is a forgone conclusion and something according to tradition. It is forbidden to interfere in the others' private lives except by a legal body and at the request of the injured party.

People are free as far as their private life is concerned. They can come and go, leave and enter as they wish. They can go out on the street without anyone telling them not to do so. If someone complains, then it is the right of the legal body to intervene. If no one makes a complaint, then no person can poke his nose in the affairs of others and tell them to stop what they are doing or ask them why are they doing what they are doing. In a state of war or in a state of emergency the matter is different—this is known. If there is suspicion that someone is plotting or spying or carrying out activities counter to the interest, the organs responsible for security should investigate. If they do not come up with anything to justify the suspicion, they should set free those who have been investigated. In normal conditions, however, no person should interfere in another's private life.

Freedom of movement and residence in time of peace. [Al-Qadhdhafi reading from agenda] People are free with regard to their movement at home and abroad; they can reside anywhere in peacetime. In wartime, naturally, there may be dangers to them and to the security of their homeland; therefore, movement may not be allowed. I mean that they may not be able to move in a military zone or in a battle area. Movement is not allowed in no-man's-land. If you are asked to join the fighting you cannot say: I want to go abroad to perform the minor pilgrimage to Mecca or go on tour. You are pledged to defend the homeland. At the time when the defense of the homeland takes priority, no person will be allowed to leave; they stay. But in peacetime the people are free; those who want to leave can leave. [applause]

The Jamahiriyah is a haven for the deprived, those who have been treated unjustly and those who struggle for freedom. They should not be handed over to other countries. This is a sacred and well-known principle. Freedom of education, thought, and invention, unless they are harmful morally or materially, are guaranteed. The same can be said about the person who invented the atomic bomb. In fact, that person should not have been

given the freedom to make the atomic bomb. The bomb is harmful to all mankind; it is the most dangerous thing to mankind. French scientists said that U.S. intelligence created the AIDS virus—acquired immune deficiency—and tested it on prisoners. When the prisoners left, they came out carrying this virus, and later the virus spread throughout the world. You are free to do anything, but if what you do is materially or morally harmful to people, then it is evil; therefore, you should not enjoy freedom in what you do.

Equality between males and females in rights— this is a forgone conclusion. We no longer differentiate between male and female just because they are male and female; we no longer differentiate between them in rights. No public authority has the right—I am talking about these two or three clauses from which people suffered a great deal in the previous period; therefore, you should direct your attention to them—no public authority should interfere in legal disciplinary affairs, unless it is legally authorized to do so; it is not allowed to do so except in those cases specified by law.

The fact remains that the revolutonary committees, the Jamahiriyah's security organs, the internal security organs, or any other organ such as a security unit to investigate or to close a road. These in previous years were inevitable; we were in a transition stage, and these things were inevitable. The people suffered during that a great deal, even the innocents. Criminals deserve such treatment—to hell with them, today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow. But the people who are on the sidelines, the innocent people who suffered as a result of this, should not have been treated like that. While searching for a criminal, you may arrest a criminal, believing that he is criminal. The Jews caught someone believing that he looked like Christ. They executed him. He could not defend himself. The man looked like Christ, and the Jews said: This is Jesus. Why? The man was innocent. They were after Jesus to get rid of him. Such things happened during the revolution and the transition period—the period of economic, social, and political transformation and the changing of the foundations of the rotten society we used to have here. There would be victims.

But the enemies of the transformation and the enemies of the revolution should be crushed. However, when this practice prevails it becomes a sword in the hand of a specific group of organs or people drawn against the people and the latter would become frightened, believing that the sword would fall on their necks rightly or wrongly. A person who wants to revenge himself on someone may exploit this; a person who may harbor hatred against another may use this; a person who may want to evict another from a house may exploit this. Therefore, no public authority should interfere in the legal disciplinary system. There are bodies or people who have been granted the right to ensure legal discipline by the people.

If you are a person who has such a right, then you alone have the authority to arrest someone. As for the rest they do not have such right. Who are you? You are the person who has been authorized by society to make an arrest. Examples are: the internal security organ, the traffic police, the municipal guard, the forest guard—they have the right to make an arrest, if we suppose that. No other person should come and arrest people, accusing them of violating the law. All right, suppose I have violated the law. You are not responsible for arresting me. Those responsible for making an arrest are those legally authorized to do so, according to the legal disciplinary system.

Therefore, from the effective date of this law, no organ irrespective of what the latter may be is allowed to arrest any person. It can do so only if it is so authorized. Even the bodies authorized to make arrests should not practice the legal disciplinary system except against those specified by law. The traffic police can arrest people who violate traffic laws. No person who is quarelling with another should ask the traffic police to arrest the other person. It makes no difference whether the person is smuggling goods or quarrelling or is stealing or is a plotter—only the people specified by the law should be arrested. A traffic policeman should say that he is only authorized to arrest a person who has violated the traffic law. As for the thief, another department has the right to arrest him—that department is authorized to arrest thieves, and so on and so forth.

No public body should interfere in anything outside its legal jursidiction. Let us suppose that someone closes a road. Why has he closed a road and forced people not to use that road? If we ask them they would say: A soldier came to us and told us to close this road, or this officer ordered us to close the road. If you have no authority to close a road you should not do so. If you are a soldier then you should not close a road because you have no right to do so. Who can close a road? A municipality or the traffic department or the transport department—the department which has the right to close a road may do so.

If any other authority closes it, we will change the gate (as heard) and go; we will not recognize this closure unless it is done by an authorized body. No public body is allowed to interfere in anything for which it is not legally authorized. We sometimes find that four or five bodies are involved in the same matter. This cannot be; it is without doubt that the responsibility of just one body and the other shave no right to get involved. This entrenches the law. No ordinary person is allowed to use public means, persons, or corporate property, in matters which are outside their legal competence.

Take, for example, an ordinary person who has at his disposal resources belonging to the state and who uses them for his own benefit, although he is not legally authorized to do so. For instance, an officer in the people's security has at his disposal police cars, police handcuffs, and members of the people's security. Then he has a personal quarrel with someone, like any other

quarrel between two people and having nothing to do with people's security. As a result this officer decides to use the means at his disposal against his adversary and asks two members of the people's security to take a car and to go and eliminate him, or take the handcuffs to arrest him.

No, such things must be prohibited by the law that consolidates freedom. Whoever you are—officer, ordinary person, or whatever—I am not interested in who you are; the important thing is that if we quarrel, it is merely a quarrel between X, Y, and Z, and so forth, and you should not use the means at your disposal against me at all. If I have committed a crime against society and if society has given you these means to (?protect) this society, you have the right, and only in this case, to use them against that person. In the case of a criminal, it is all right for people's security to use cars, handcuffs, and weapons to arrest him. But in a personal matter, it is impermissible for you to use these means.

If you are a traffic warden and you have a party and decide to use road signs and patrol police to close a number of roads to prevent people from disturbing you, this is not legitimate. In this case you are like any other ordinary person. If you have a party, you are like any ordinary person, you do not have such authority. You have this authority only when you are at work and when you use it for the benefit of society. This is what the following article means: No ordinary person is allowed to use public means, persons, or corporate property in matters outside their legal competence.

Any exploitation of religion will be nipped in the bud. Factionalism, sectarianism, partisanship, and party membership are forbidden. In accordance with the Koran they (?are things in which one should not be involved). The Koranic verses are clear and explicit. They forbid partisanship and party membership as dogma, or sectarianism. The Islamic religion forbids in the Koran religious partisanship, religious dogmatism, and factions. There are Koranic verses which say: Don't imitate the people of the book who came before you: they split up into branches and formed parties; every party was happy with its lot. Anyone who calls for dogma, factionalism, or any religious rituals—any gathering of this sort would be an imitation of the Jews and the Christians. The Koran forbids this.

The people's court specializes in examining all cases that relate to this law. It is because this concerns the freedom of people, political and economic matters that affect the nature of the Jamahiri society, and the building of new bases. When you view it as an ordinary court, for instance, a fight, theft, divorce, marriage, and alimony are all things that should be brought before these courts. It may be said: I have no knowledge and I cannot probe into administrative matters, religious manipulation, or a clandestine action. These things in actual fact have a specific aspect, and the people's court should look into them. This law is now (?dealt with).

The important point is this—we will try to go quickly through it—social security is (?based) on salaries. It is deducted from (?the salaries), and when one retires one receives a pension. There are also people who are disabled, people who have become disabled or who have reached old age and have become unable to cope. How can they be taken care of? There are also children who have no guardians, such as those whose parents have died, or whose parents are absent or are unknown, and who are being looked after in nurseries.

What I see is that the subject will be left to the people's congresses. What is happening today is not reassuring. One receives a salary. A proportion is deducted for the pension fund. The treasury now allocates some of its budget for members of the pension fund. After 20, 30, 40 or 10 [as heard] years one receives a pension. After examining the cases of some departments I discovered that they are not guaranteed. A day may come when the general treasury is unable to pay the installments. That means that when one reaches pensionable age there wll be no funds in the general treasury to provide enough social security for subsistence. This is particularly so in a country like Libya which relies on oil.

Suppose there were no more oil or you can no longer sell oil. How can we then guarantee that people will get their pensions in future, say in 10 or 20 years? In my opinion, and it is only an opinion, it should be an establishment managed by individuals. However, things might change such an establishment should always remain the same. No one should be able to promulgate a decision against it because although it is a trust, a decision might still be issued against it, to abolish it. A public company might be abolished by decision. A public bank can be closed down or amalgamated into another bank by a decision. What we want here is that the money of the people, who are saving very hard—and if the state is today able to save from its budget for the benefit of pensions it should do so—such money should be put somewhere under the management of those people, it should be guaranteed.

So how can we have an institution which remains the same even if the situation changes? [words indistinct] Let us take an example from our daily life which has nothing to do with the state; however, the state might change into say, a kingdom, a republic, a Jamahiriyah, a Persian, an Arab or anything else, such a thing would not change. [audience answers Al-Qadhdhafi from the hall, words indistinct, Al-Qadhdhafi heard mentioning the Islamic Arts Establishment]

This establishment for Islamic arts was set up by a Turkish man, whose name was [name indistinct]—may God thank him as he was a also a saint. It has taken in everyone who does not have a family; it has brought them up and educated them. It was like Al-Waqf [religious endowments system] which both in the past and now looks afer people until they are grown up; you cannot tamper with this or change it. I mean it has been like this for a long time. We want something similar to

this which nobody can touch and which has nothing to do with the state. I am not talking about anything specific; I am leaving it to you to decide at the people's congresses. I am only talking about the notion [words indistinct].

There should be some freedom in this; it should be done how you want it to be. You might say take away from me one-quarter of my salary because I have enough money. Perhaps someone, who lives on his own and has no family, might say: Please, brother,s deduct one-third from my salary and put it in this bank or somehwere else but give it back to me when I retire. You can deduct money from me now, and I would like you to invest it for me; every month deduct one-third of my salary because I have enough money, and I do not have a family. Another person who has a family might say: Deduct a certain percentage from my salary and no more. Someone might even ask that his whole salary be put into this fund or that until he needs it in the future.

There must be a choice. If the state has oil or is rich and it allocates money to this fund from its budget, so much the better. If not, what we deduct from our income will at least be put in this fund and nobody can touch it; to coin an old expression it is a family affair. However, I do not wish to present my own views on the matter, but after you have discussed the agenda and when you reach the discussion on social security, you will voice your own opinions on the subject. I am talking about the essence of this matter; that people must be free to contribute to their security or not; the matter must be optional so that each person can decide how much to pay toward his pension. He should also be totally free to decide how much can be deducted and handed over to a body which will secure it and invest it for him. The body will not be the treasury or a company. This body would be initially set up to keep this money and invest it for the insured.

The retired person would know that a body has been set up to pay him for all the contributions he made during his working life when he retires and that his money is secured not by the government, the state, or anything of that sort. This is how it should be regarding retirement. As for the old, the handicapped, and the orphans, the state must look after them. If anybody donates money to the handicapped, that's fine. If one of us says that he supports the old, the orphans and that he is donating this money to them, good; he can do so.

However, society must allocate some money from its budget. In general we will all pay for homes for the handicapped and children without parents. We will build shelters for them and pay for people to look after them and educate them until they grow up and can take care of themselves. We will also build homes for the elderly and pay people to look after them until they die. This is what the treasury will pay for. I do not mean that the treasury will necessarily have to give money in this case, but the body in charge of the homes for the handicapped and the children can be like the body I talked about with regard to retirement; in other words, it can be an independent body.

The other point I would like to talk about is the various disasters which affect people suddenly, like somebody's car, home, or farm being destroyed by fire or a person losing his crop or some such thing.

This is why there should be either compulsary insurance or voluntary insurance. At present if someone's house catches fire, he has to contact a hundred different authorities. Committees come and go, you go to this one but it does not help you. While I was on the way here someone presented me with a petition: Please, Brother Mu'ammar, my house has burned down and no one will compensate me, and I do not know why.

This will reduce nepotism and also reduce the need for some to beg from others. Why, if it is your right, you should receive it wherever you are. The method used must be scientific. You may elect to put aside, from now on, a sum of money, or allow it to be deducted from your salary or your income because you might not be on a salary, you may be a peasant or a craftsman or have a certain skill; you might own a farm, a shop, a cooperative or a workshop. What I have said applies to all of these; namely, a deduction from your income. You may say: Deduct this amount of money for the insurance company so that I can insure myself. If an accident occurs to the insured person or to his property, the company, as soon as it is informed, will pay compensation. It might replace his car, build his house, compensate the loss at his farm, or anything he has lost. He will not need to beg from his uncle or his relatives, pleading that he has suffered a disaste and begging for compensation. This method must end by law and in a civilized way.

Then we will have the pension system; old age and disability and orphan children benefits; and in the third place, casualty insurance. It should be clear whether it is a compulsory insurance or a voluntary insurance. The compulsory insurance means that a certain amount of money is deducted from you in case of any accident. If anything happens to you in future they will pay you what they have deducted from you. This is called compulsory insurance. Consequently, you will have to file a claim against the insuring company. As soon as anything happens to the person, the authority that deducted the money would repay him the sum it deducted. Or it could be voluntary insurance. That is, you go to a certain authority, give them the money and ask them to invest the sum. If nothing happens, you say: That is it; you take it. If something happens to me, then you compensate me. [Words indistinct] and no one is begging from anyone. This is social security. A draft law is being proposed which I could not understand, but it seems, from what I saw of it, different from the concept in which we believe. [indistinct interjection from the audience]

Yes, thank God, the shops have opened their doors. [laughter and applause] Of course, goods are coming from all directions, and everyone is selling as he likes. Before when you bought goods personally and at your markets, you could not buy more even in a million years, so there was no need to increase salaries; it was only paper. On the contrary, we could reduce it. But at present... [applause]

This is what you have decided. People no longer live freely. [sentence indistinct] There is (?no) law which protects the animals and trees. In the long run our investment will be in animals and trees; fruit trees or woodland. As I told you, these things are sacred. The olive tree is sacred; the camel is sacred; we do not seem to appreciate the value of these things since the advent of oil. People say that the Indians worship the cow. Indians do not worship the cow; the cow is not their god. They hold cows sacred because they are the source of livelihood and life. They do not kill them or maltreat them or run them over with cars. Cows roam as they please. Cows are a source of livelihood and a source of plenty; they are is sacred in this sense. Some people say: Look at the Indians, they worship the cow. They do not. They hold them sacred because they see cows provide milk and people survive on the milk. Why should they kill them or run over them with cars? The camel is like the cow in India; the olive tree, the palm tree, when you kill them it is like killing everything.

Conspiring with the Americans is another (?bad thing). For example, if a Libyan is recruited by the Americans who train him—especially at this time of confrontation when America feels joy at striking Libya—if you kill him it is like killing a dog. In fact a dog is better than he because a dog does not betray his master. This has diminished. [sentence as heard] [applause] However, the palm tree is a sacred thing. You may kill one thousand such people but never kill a palm tree, or a camel, or an olive tree.

This law imposes a punishment on anyone who runs over a goat or camel on the highway and on anyone who keeps them but does not look after them. It also applies to anyone who cuts down a palm tree, or an olive tree, or a tree that is sacred. This is being said only to stress the importance of this law. When it is promulgated it will be difficult for anyone with a conscience to cut down a palm tree or an olive tree, or to kill a camel or a (?goat). How can one kill a camel to sell its meat? You could use it for a long, long time. When you buy a camel, you should discover its sex, male or female, and its age. These things are important because a camel is a sacred animal and we want it to live at least 10 years. Why do you kill it today?

A palm tree is felled. Why was it felled? (?At the 100 meeting you were told) that a palm tree takes a long time to bear fruit. You don't plant today and gather the fruit tomorrow. So many years have to elapse before you can do so. But for one to come along and cut it down (?just like that) is like treason. That is the aim of colonialism when it applies a scorched-earth policy. The Israelis today are burning down the Palestinians' plantations. This is the scorched-earth policy. Once the source of livelihood is burned down, that is that. You have burned down the source of food. The enemy and imperialism scorch the earth. When you fell trees and kill animals, you will be regarded as a soldier of imperialism practicing a scorched-earth policy. [indistinct interjection from the audience]

No, of course there should be no majority in the people's conferences. Even the view of one individual should be taken into account. The view of 1 conference out of 1,000 should be recorded and taken into account. There is no such thing as the minority yielding to the majority. This is not a valid theory. Who says that the minority has no rights? Maybe the minority has all the rights. You should discuss this later.

There is another law concerning equality between Libyan and non-Libyan Arabs, which says that the latter should understand that they have the same duties and rights as the former. That is, non-Libyan Arabs should not tell us that they have the rights of Libyans, but not the duties of Libyans. Libya, as we understand it, is the country of all Arabs, and non-Libyan Arabs have the right to enter Libya and reside and work here. They have the right to own properties in Libya, just as Libyans do. Non-Libyan Arabs enjoy the same rights and have the same duties as the Libyans. To fear the Arabs delays Arab unity. [applause]

Now there is an amendment to the military service law. You enacted a law in which you said that military service should last 24 months, and that those who do their military service should receive a token salary. But we found that the batch that has just passed out, and even maybe the next batch, contained government officials and married people. Some had loans to pay and some were accustomed to a certain salary. We cannot tell them: You have to serve for 2 years, during which you will not receive your salary, as you will have only 50 dinars, for example. Why such a punishment? It is very harsh. Why do you stop his salary for 2 years and give him only 50 dinars? How can he meet his other commitments?

Those who are eligible for military service will have no problems. They will graduate and then serve for 24 months. They will have no families to support. They will not be accustomed to certain salaries. They will have no loans or commitments. They will be able to live on 40-50 dinars per month. They will have no problems. They will do their service and become members of the strategic reserves.

When I saw these flaws, I said during the earlier celebrations marking the revolution's anniversary that people who are on salaries and doing military service should continue to draw their salaries, and that the period of service can be 1 year instead of 2 for these people. This

is to remove those people who have these
They will be replaced by young people who hav problems.
problems. Even if the young people stay in the ve no such
24 months they will have no problems. service for

But I hope that the period of military service
young people will be reduced to the minimum even for
we train one batch after another, the period wi. How? If
shorter. It is possible for us to say that every ll become
trained people will remain under arms for 6y 100,000
After that, they will be replaced by another 100, months.
will be trained and will become ready. ,000, who

So long as we have training and the basis
military training is being expanded, people of basic
trained in arms, and alternate [military] ser will be
become a routine thing. Later we could mrvice will
1-month period only and there will be no pmake it a
person will assume duty for 1 month on the oblem. A
After 1 month, he will return home to be rep borders.
another group. However, all of these things deplaced by
the people's congresses passing this law. We canepend on
it 12 months or pay them their salaries until tnot make
amended by the same authority that issued it. Tlhe law is
issued the law must ammend it. No other bodyhose who
competence in this regard. y has any

However, what we are also putting before yo
decision to require compulsory military servicou is our
of a certain age. National service—what does it of those
those outside this age range? All right, why does mean to
have to serve? Because he is 30 years old, and th this man
are 13 or 35 are exempt. What is this? Is it becahose who
30 years old? We are all citizens aged sonuse I am
between 50, 40, 20, 30, and each and everyomewhere
contribute to national service according to his ane must
the way he knows. It does not necessary havability in
military training. ve to be

Anything else? I see that it is unjust to a cer
group, a certain general, a certain segment of tain age
society. How can you say we are equal when thhe same
are 35 and under have to train for 24 monthose who
arms. Well what about those of you over 35 yeis under
Why don't you do national service according ears old?
age? Why? No, so long as we have national serv to your
should be considered. It must be national servicvice, this
and each one according to his age and ability, to e for all
can do. what he

You may say that your national service is to go ar
drawing instead of employing a teacher from thend teach
pines. You can teach with extra salary or withoute Philip-
your national service for 24 months. For you, t. This is
service might be standing guard at the electrinational
station. Although you are working, you can stc power
guard from this hour to that. As for you, you will till be a
security forces for 24 months with or withou work in
salary. You are an officer in the security forceut extra
s doing

traffic or criminal investigation or in the municipal guard or in the forest guard. I think these are reasonable suggestions and we are capable of doing these things.

Another law concerns the people's committees. What interests me in this respect is that the people's committee must have discipline, order, and control. The higher committee controls the lower committees. I would not accept that a committee can refuse to acknowledge the authority of a higher committee under the pretext of being chosen by the people. The people have elected you to be accountable to that committee. The people have elected you to carry out this task under the control of this secretary. So the secretary of the people's committee must be capable of controlling the members of the people's committee.

At present, the secretary of the people's committee cannot hold the members of the committee accountable. In these circumstances, things will come to a halt. There can be no alternative to the fact that the secretary of the people's committee... [changes thought] Don't you know the law that is before you? This is the essense of the law concerning the people's committees. What concerns me about this law is that the secretary of the people's committee must have the power to control the members of his people's committee. Also, any higher people's committee must be able to control the people's committees that are below it.

At the forefront of all this is the general people's committee, which must be capable of controlling all the people's committees. Administratively it must control them; as for popular matters and whether it has performed its duties or not, it is accountable to the congresses [word indistinct] the general people's committee. All of these committees are accountable to the people's congress. However, during the implementation, every committee is accountable to the committee that is higher than itself, and every committee is accountable to its secretary.

Every committee is answerable to its secretary, who has powers. He can punish. Afterwards he can come before the people—the popular congress—and say: Here is this member's file. He is incompetent. A higher committee has a subcommittee; This secretary may come along and say: This subcommittee was not competent and here is its dossier. I have commented numerous times and said many times and drawn attention to it countless times—the people can disband it and put another committee in its place. What we are doing is this: We form a committee and that is all. We are busy with our tasks and do not know what the committee is doing. Who knows what it is doing? It is its secretary who knows what its members are doing, and the higher committee also knows what it is doing and whether it is doing its job or not.

This is the essence of the law that applies to the popular committees. If it is different from this, then I see it is not (?what is desired). This is the essence of the law that should be drawn up.

Finally, what I want to say is that the important report which the popular congresses should study either in brief or in detail—and it is preferred that it be summarized—is this report which is marked in red. This is the popular follow-up machinery; it contains administrative, financial, and technical supervision. The popular follow-up machinery that you have created is in actual fact the watch dog that follows all the popular committees you have formed for the purpose of carrying out your resolutions. This body scrutinizes them and follows their administrative, financial, and technical activity; the projects and their economic benefits; the question of whether or not to implement them; whether there is fraud involved or not; whether it is of benefit or not; and whether it is progressing on time or not. This is the technical side of it. It is an octopus that scrutinizes projects. These people have accountants and specialists in accounting. They control the financial system of the state and how it is proceeding.

They have another administrative octopus. It supervises the state's administrative nucleus and how it is proceeding, and the popular committees and how they run the administration. Subsequently, popular congresses should follow up with care and quite accurately what the popular watchdog says. Its words are in this red report. Every popular quarter is called upon to implement the popular congresses' resolutions. They have someone who represents their sector at all the basic popular congresses.

I explained this at the Tripoli municipality congress last year and you should go back and have a look at it and how to bring each committee to account. Sometimes the elected member who specializes in something may be dropped in the basic popular congress; sometimes the committee that specializes in something is dropped at the level of municipalities; and sometimes the general specialized committee is dropped at the level of the Jamahiriyah and sometimes it remains. We do not say why the popular committee on health (?should or should not fall in Tubruq). In Tripoli it is alright. This does not mean that the health machinery is all right everywhere. No. If we find that the health machinery has deteriorated in Ghiryan municipality, then the popular health committee in Gharyan municipality falls and is brought to account, or its secretary, or one of its members. But we must not say that the entire health machinery is not functioning well.

For example, if we find that industry in Tripoli is not functioning well, we cannot say that industry in the whole Jamahiriyah is not functioning well. But this one in Tripoli did not function well. Then the Tripoli committee should fall, and no others. When black points are given by the basic popular congresses—the municipal branches; the municipalities; the general people's congress—these black marks are put together and it will mean that this committee is of no use.

Let us go forward; the struggle continues. [applause and chants hailing the revolution]

Official Addresses UNESCO on Al-Rabitah

LD1101100989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Geneva 11 January (JANA)—The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture said that the Al-Rabitah plant at Gharyan city is for the production of medicine and medical drugs; it will contribute to the achievement of self-sufficiency in medicine, which protect people from diseases—an inalienable right of the people of the Great Jamahiriyah which we will allow no one to deny.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, in an address to the Geneva UNESCO international conference yesterday, added that the people of the Great Jamahiriyah have been the subject of a number of aggressions and threats of aggressions from the U.S. Administration, which are aimed at paralyzing our abilities and squandering our resources, thus preventing us from developing ourselves and being able to secure our needs. He stressed the U.S. Administration's latest threats against the Libyan Arab people and their civilized achievement—the pharmaceutical plant—which is being built upon the soil of the Great Jamahiriyah as one of its progress landmarks that is being achieved through available means.

He pointed out that the Libyan Arab people, though their numbers are small, are big in their struggle, and have great aspirations and hope; they continuously work toward the goal of eternal freedom upon earth and under the sun.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture gave the conference extensive details on the content of the Great Green Document for Human Rights, pointing out that the document stipulates that the sons of the Jamahiri society believe that peace between nations can bring properity and opulence. They call for the control and abolishment of the arms trade as well as the abolishment and destruction of nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical weapons and the other of weapons of mutual destruction. The sons of the Jamahiri also wish to rid humanity of nuclear installations and the danger of their waste.

He pointed out that the 10 years between now the end of this century are an important and critical stage in the march of humanity—a march which has always been threated with tragedies, wars, aggression, and international terrorism. The Great Jamahiriyah has suffered and is still suffering from these. Special attention to such events should be considered when dealing with educational problems at all levels.

More People Join Al-Rabitah 'Vigil'

LD1001183189 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Al-Rabitah, Ay al-Nar [January] 10, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Masses of the people's congresses in Yeyren municipal branch of Mahafazat Gharyan municipality and Mudiriyat al-'Aziziyah municipal

branch of Az Zuwayyah municipality marched to Al-Rabitah medicine plant in Gharyan city joining the Arab doctors, pharmacists and nurses holding vigil at the plant.

The masses held an emergency session in which they asserted solid determination to defend this great cultural achievement.

Sudan

Protest Made to Chad Over Raid on Embassy

NC1001140389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (MENA)—Sudan has lodged an official protest with the Chadian Government over an incident in which Chadian security forces stormed the Sudanese consul general's office in Chad and detained a Libyan prisoner of war who had asked for political asylum in Sudan.

A Libyan prisoner of war took refuge in the Sudanese Embassy [as received] in the Chadian capital 2 days ago. While Sudanese Embassy officials were interrogating the Libyan national, Chadian security forces stormed the building without prior notice and took the Libyan national away.

A responsible source in the Sudanese Foreign Ministry stressed today that the storming of the Sudanese Embassy by Chadian security forces contravenes international law and norms. He pointed out that diplomatic norms prohibit any state to encroach upon an embassy of another state in order to detain someone.

He noted that Sudan protested this behavior and asked the Chadian Government not to repeat such acts, out of concern for bilateral ties and respect for diplomatic norms. He denied any intention of recalling the Sudanese ambassador to Chad and ruled out the possibility of a diplomatic crisis as a result of this incident.

SUNA Resumes Operations After 3-Day Strike

NC1001142089 Cairo MENA in English 1358 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 10 (MENA)—Work at SUDAN NEWS AGENCY was resumed today following a three-day strike after the government had responded to the demands of the agency's employees.

The agency's employees syndicate had on Wednesday asked for a strike and demanded that a board of directors be appointed for the agency. They also asked for the improvement of pay.

Private Sector Wage Hikes Not Yet Considered

LD1001230189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1625 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—Prime Minister Sadiq Al-Mahdi has not touched on the issue of workers wages in the private sector during his meeting with the Executive Bureau of the Sudanese Workers Trade Unions Federation (SWTUF), an official source at the Council of Ministers told SUNA today. The prime minister met with the SWTUF Executive last Sunday and reviewed salaries and wages increase issues.

The source said the government would, however, have to review the private sector issue after consultations with the concerned sides in the private sectors. It is understood that the government has agreed to the demands of the SWTUF to incrase wages in the public sector.

Technical committee is currently in session to see the substitutes for financing the salaries increase which is estimated at two billion Sudanese pounds. It is understood that the private sectors are asking to be given a say on the increase of wages and salaries.

No Action Planned on DUP-SPLA Initiative

LD1001222989 Khartoum SUNA in English 1634 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jan (SUNA)—Attorney-General and Acting Foreign Minister Dr Hassan al-Turabi has stressed the Cabinet is not considering any measure vis-a-vis the DUP-SPLA peace initiative at the moment.

In press statements today, he said there is a peace project currently before the Cabinet, pointing out that the said project embraces all previous contacts with the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army, SPLA. He did not elaborate however.

DUP Official Reaffirms Move to Opposition

LD1001222189 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 10, SUNA—The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) has reaffirmed its position of moving to the opposition ranks in the parliament and that the current contacts between the parties are on personal levels, said DUP Politburo member Mr. Abdul Hakam [name indistinct] today.

He said the Politburo and parliamentarian group of DUP would meet next Saturday to put the preparations for DUP new position in the opposition and chose a DUP opposition leader. [sentence as received]

It is understood that the DUP pulled out of the third coalition (?government) over differences with its Ummah partner and the National Islamic Front (NIF) on a peace initiative concluded by the DUP and the rebel SPLA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, end of last year.

The DUP has been insisting that the government should officially endorse the peace initiative while the premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi insists that there are points in the agreement that have to be [word indistinct] and especially the cease-fire and [word indistinct] state of emergency currently in force in the country.

Lawyers Union Denounces Interference in Judiciary
NC1001130589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The General Secretariat of the Arab Lawyers Union issued a statement today expressing its concern over what it described as an attempt by the executive in Sudan to interfere in the affairs of the judiciary in that country.

The secretariat emphasized its solidarity with Sudan's judges and counsellors in the pursuit of their just demands.

Western Sahara

Algiers Radio Interviews Polisario Official
LD1001203189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1217 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Interview with Malainine Sadiq, Polisario Front Political Bureau member, by Noureddine Bouzid—live]

[Text] [Bouzid] Ladies and gentlemen: We, or more precisely Radio Algiers' second news bulletin, have as a guest Malainine, who is a member of the Polisario Front Political Bureau. We will ask him about the recent developments in what is now known as the Western Saharan question. First of all, Malainine, welcome to Algiers Radio.

The first question is about the last thing mentioned in the Polisario Front Executive Committee statement, following a meeting the Committee held the day before yesterday to study the results of the talks between the Polisario delegation and Morocco's King Hassan II. The last thing mentioned in this statement was that the Marrakesh meeting will enable the Polisario Front and Morocco to organize together a free and fair referendum for the self-determination of the Saharan people. Malainine, does this mean the disagreements about the organization of the referendum were removed?

[Malainine] Thanks, thanks to the Algiers Radio on this brotherly occasion. Regarding your question, you know that a Polisario Front delegation including brothers Bachir Mustapha Sayyed, member of the Executive Committee and official in charge of external relations; Mahfoud Ali Beiba, member of the Executive Committee and SDAR prime minister, and Ibrahim Ghali, member of the Executive Committee and SDAR defense minister, visited Marrakesh where they had many meetings with Moroccan officials, led by His Majesty King Hassan II.

As is known, these talks were about how to settle the Saharan-Moroccan conflict which has been going on for more than 12 or 13 years. After this visit ended and our delegation returned to the liberated regions, the Executive Committee held an emergency session on Saturday 8 January 1989, under the chairmanship of Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, SDAR president and Polisario secretary general.

The aim of this meeting was to evaluate the results of the historic Marrakesh meeting, which brought together for the first time, His Majesty King Hassan II and a high-ranking Saharan delegation. In its statement the Executive Committee praised the friendly and serious atmosphere which characterized the various working sessions.

The Executive Committee also indicated that the Marrakesh meeting will undoubtedly open the way for a qualitative development of the UN-OAU plan. We believe—and this is our intention—that the plan will enter a practical and serious phase in order to reach a complete and final agreement between the two sides, that is, the Kingdom of Morocco and Polisario, and that this dialogue will enable them to go together, as you said to organize a free and fair referendum for the self-determination of the Saharan people. And we hope that all these obstacles will be removed and that such a direct dialogue will consolidate the two sides' mutual trust to remove the obstacles to a just solution, which should be based upon international organizations' resolutions and should be in accordance with the sequences laid down by the United Nations and the OAU.

[Bouzid] Malainine, I think you have tried somehow to avoid giving me an exact answer on whether, during the first and second meeting with the Moroccan monarch in Marrakesh, you had talks with him on technical matters about how to organize the referendum in practice or not; particularly, since we know that among the pending issues, which has previously been a problem between the two sides, is the withdrawal of the Moroccan troops and administration from occupied territories.

[Malainine] All that we can say now is that all aspects of the Saharan-Moroccan conflict were examined with total frankness and truthfulness by both sides, a matter which we consider to be the first step toward dialogue between the two sides. And we hope it has been a good omen for the removal of all obstacles hindering the organization of this referendum, the referendum which would enable the Saharan people to exercise their right to self-determination.

[Bouzid] Malainine, Polisario Front Political Bureau member, I would also like to ask what Bachir Mustapha Sayyed said following the two meetings with King Hassan II in Marrakesh, when he asserted that more meetings will be held in the future. Does this mean that more direct meetings are to be held with Morocco and to be precise between the Moroccan King Hassan II and senior Polisario officials?

[Malainine] We are confident that the Marrekesh meeting has opened new doors and new vistas for the continuation of the direct dialogue between us and the Kingdom of Morocco. Our intention is that such meetings should continue in the future because the psychological barrier has been broken by the Marrakesh meeting. As far as we are concerned—and this was asserted by Polisario—such a meeting was held at the beginning of 1989 and it has aroused hopes that this year will be decisive as far as a peaceful solution is concerned for the two sides.

Our intention remains, and it is obvious also on the other side, that serious and responsible dialogue should replace the language of destruction; brotherhood should replace hatred and peace should replace war. This was the impression which prevailed at the talks. And we hope that the new atmosphere of mutual trust between the two sides will continue in the future.

[Bouzid] Malainine, one last question if you do not mind, in connection with the tour that starts today by Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative Espiell to the region. How do you perceive this new tour by the special representative in light of the repeated contacts and the direct dialogue which took place between the Moroccan king and the high-ranking Polisario officials?

[Malainine] The tour by Gros Espiell, the personal representative of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, which starts today in the region, in fact takes place in positive conditions and a good atmosphere following the direct dialogue between the Polisario Front and the Kingdom of Morocco. We hope, for our part, that this tour will be successful.

On our side we will endeavor to ease the mission of the UN secretary general's personal representative when he comes to visit our people. We are sure that the meeting which took place in Marrakesh will consolidate the efficient and positive roles played by the United Nations and the OAU to settle the conflict on a just basis and confirm our people's right to self-determination. Our desire will always be to continue to consolidate and to confirm these efforts so this dialogue between the two sides is sustained, in order to make the UN-OAU mission easy.

[Bouzid] So, you are optimistic, Malainine?

[Malainine] Always.

[Bouzid] Thank you for responding positively to our invitation to be the guest of Algiers Radio's second news bulletin today and we hope to meet with Your Excellency on other occasions. Thanks again and goodbye.

Kuwait

Al-'Usaymi, UK's Howell Discuss Relations

LD0401175989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1328 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait Jan 4 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Husaymi received Wednesday in his office a member of British Parliament and head of Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, David Howell, a Foreign Ministry source said.

The source told KUNA that the talks between the two officials tackled the relations between the U.K. and Kuwait. The two sides also reviewed the latest Gulf developments following the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

The British parliamentarian praised his country's relations with the Gulf states, the source added. While speaking on the latest Palestinian developments, the British official applauded the PLO's stance, following the proclamation of the independent state, and the PLO's recognition of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

He further expressed his country's firm support for the efforts of the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and stressed the need to pressure Israel to respond positively to the recent peace moves in the region, the source concluded.

UK Decision To Talk With PLO Welcomed

LD0401152789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1332 GMT 4 Jan 89

[By Salih Nazzal]

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 4 (KUNA)—Kuwait Wednesday welcomed Britian's decision to dispatch a senior official to Tunis for talks with Palestinian leaders.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's acting prime minister and foreign minister, told KUNA that Kuwait would be happy to see Britian contribute to international efforts aimed at resolving the Palestinian question and bringing about peace in the Middle East. The significance of such a British role lies in the historic ties that bind Britain to the Arab world rendering that major European power "better poised than others" to understand Arab issues, Shaykh Sabah said.

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe told a press conference in Kuwait Tuesday that London had decided to send State Minister for Foreign Affairs Wifliam Waldegrave to Tunis soon to have talks with Palestinian officials. Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, met in London last month with government officials, in the first British-PLO contact in about five years. The meetings followed the U.S. decision to open direct dialogue with the PLO.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistan's Bhutto Holds Jeddah News Conference

LD1001233189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 10 Jan (SPA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan has for the second time freely elected a prime minister, and explained that the first time was in the period 1972-77 [date as received].

She said at a news conference held this evening in Jeddah "we came to the holy land to thank the Almighty and beseech Him to grant us guidance and help our country." She added that Pakistan occupies a strategic place in the world and said "the stability and security of Pakistan are linked to the security and stability of the region. We are pleased to see the arrival of dawn in our country coincide with the reduction of tension in the region. We welcomed the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and we also welcomed the Soviet program for withdrawing from Afghanistan by February 1989."

She pointed out that in order to consolidate peace in Afghanistan there is a need to pursue caution and went on to say "we are concerned and do not want to see a civil war in Afghanistan; it is the right of the Afghan people to choose the type of government they want."

Mrs Bhutto stressed that her government attaches the utmost importance to internal stability and said it is important to have a sense of national unity, attract investment, work to slow inflation and unemployment, work seriously to combat the drug problem, and open the door for investments in industry to Pakistanis and foreigners. She pointed out that her government is interested in building the individual, giving him protection and encouragement; the state must be an example of fairness, ideals, and effectiveness. [passage omitted]

Mrs Bhutto dealt at the press conference with Saudi-Pakistani relations and described them as strong. She said "there are many ties between the Kingdom and Pakistan and we appreciate and respect King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and our country will always be eager to develop these relations." [passage omitted]

Mrs Bhutto stressed that Pakistan wants its relationship with the Kingdom to grow stronger and said "we continually look forward to building stronger relations in light of the current excellent relations."

Miss Bhutto welcomed the talks that took place recently in Al-Ta'if between delegations from the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Government. She expects that after

the completion of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan the Afghan mujahidin will form a consultative council in Afghanistan to supervise elections.

The Pakistani prime minister affirmed that Pakistan supports the ICO and she said: We believe that Pakistan's interests do not depend on changes in governments.

Concerning the situation between India and Pakistan, Miss Bhutto said tension cannot disappear between them until the Kashmir problem is solved. She added: Keeping this problem alive has led to the outbreak of several wars between India and Pakistan. However, solving this problem is essential for normalizing relations between the two countries.

She discussed the visit of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Pakistan recently and said: We have concluded three agreements with India and this is an important step toward improving bilateral relations. We are sincere in developing relations with India and feel that the Indian prime minister is also sincere in improving these relations. We believe that it is important that we move step by step so that there can be complete understanding.

Benazir Bhutto affirmed that her government intends to apply the rules of the Islamic shari'ah.

She said in reply to a question in this connection: We have announced that any law that contradicts the holy Koran and the prophet's sunnah will be cancelled. We also announced that Friday is a holiday and we will distribute free copies of the Koran in Arabic. We have set up a committee to look out for the new moon and we have made it easier for the pilgrims to go on pilgrimage. We have defended just Islamic issues and developed strong relations with Islamic states.

The Pakistani prime minister announced that the level of representation between the PLO and Pakistan will be raised to that of an embassy. She said: We affirm our support for our Palestinian brothers and will always support them.

She affirmed that it is difficult to reduce Pakistani military spending. She continued: Our security must take priority, considering our position and modern history because we were involved in three wars and three rebellions. She explained that it is not in Pakistan's interest to reduce spending.

Statement Issued on Attack on Envoy in Thailand

LD0601115589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Jan (SPA)—The Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed utter dismay over the painful attack against Salih Ahmad al-Maliki, third secretary at the Saudi Embassy in Thailand.

In a statement issued today, the Foreign Affairs Ministry emphasized that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is closely following the details and circumstances of this incident. At the same time it is sure that the Thai Government will make every effort to arrest the criminal who committed the attack, and to identify those who planned and executed it.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry concluded its statement by saying: The Foreign Affairs Ministry also wishes to emphasize that the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques will do all that is necessary to safeguard the security of its sons abroad, and to avert all that harms the interests and security of this country.

AL-YAWM Criticizes Attack

JN0901212589 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 8 Jan 89 p 3

[Editorial: "The Sinful Hands"]

[Text] Having achieved this level of security and prosperity, praise be to God, our country has been targetted. Hence, a sinful hand has assassinated one of the sons of this cherished homeland as a link in a chain of terrorist actions recently carried out against our diplomats in Turkey and Pakistan.

Those who have put their hands in the devil's hand, who have made their souls polluted with crime, and who have drunk from the brackish quagmires of grudge, must pay for the crime perpetrated by their hands and must also realize the grave sin they committed against innocent people.

The Kingdom has stressed its interest in following up the assassination of the third secretary in the embassy of the custodian of the two holy mosques in Bangkok to learn about the details, circumstances, and implications of this incident. The Kingdom also announced that it will do all that is necessary to secure the safety of its sons abroad in order to thwart all that harms this country's destiny and security.

The savage behavior by the evil ones can only bring disgrace and shame to its perpetrators after they have placed themselves in a ferocious confrontation with amity, good, and virtue and after they have defied the noble human values which safeguard man's dignity and protect his life from treachery and terrorism.

The world denounces any form of terrorism and attacks against innocent people. It also provides ways to prevent these wicked acts—which afflict the international community—by suspect parties which adopt methods to intimidate peaceful people, shed innocent blood, and assassinate those faithful to their homelands.

The Kingdom's clear, frank policy; it's constant support for right, good, and justice; the great regional and international status it enjoys; and the numerous gains it has achieved for its citizens, have all stirred up the grudge

bearers so the latter have found nothing but crime to give vent to their grudge. Therefore, they deserve the wrath of both God and honorable people.

United Arab Emirates

Senegalese Foreign Minister Arrives 2 Jan

JN0201185889 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 2 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 2 (GNA)—Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha today on a two-day visit to the UAE as part of a Gulf tour.

The Senegalese minister is carrying a letter to President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from President Abdou Diouf. The letter is related to issues of interest to both countries and to the preparations for the 6th Islamic summit due to be held in Dakkar early next year.

Fall was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and a number of senior ministry officials.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN0301200889 Manama WAM in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Jan (WAM)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, has received a written message from His Excellency Senegalese President Abdou Diouf on issues of concern to the Islamic world, especially the preperations for the sixth Islamic summit conference due in Dakar next year, and bilateral relations.

The message was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, during his meeting this evening with Senegalese Foreign Minister Ibrahima Fall.

Fall left the country this evening for Riyadh after his visit to the UAE as part of a tour of a number of countries in the region. He was seen off at the airport by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of officials.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih, PLO's 'Arafat Speak at Embassy Ceremony

JN1001153689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; and struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces; along with brother 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, speaker of the Consultative Council and Standing Committee member, this morning laid the foundation stone for the new building of the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Sanaa.

Upon arrival at the embassy site, they were received by brothers Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a number of brother ministers, and Standing Committee members; Jamal 'Arafat, the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Sanaa; members of the Arab diplomatic corps accredited to our country; and a number of people belonging to the Palestinian community in Sanaa.

Immediately upon their arrival, the two leaders laid the foundation stone for the new embassy building amidst resounding chants and warm applause.

Afterward, the two leaders Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yasir 'Arafat made two statements to the news media. The following is a recording of these two statements.

[Begin recording] [Applause] ['Arafat] God willing, the embassy of the northern part of the homeland, the first part of the homeland, will be located in the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, God willing. Mr President, God willing, we will pray together in the first qiblah, and the third holiest shrine [Al-Aqsa Mosque]. As you supported this revolution in its hardest days, in the difficult days, and helped it reach what it has reached, this Palestinian people will not forget these good and revolutionary stands taken by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni people.

Hence, on behalf of the stone-throwing heroes, women, and on behalf of our people's uprising—the people of sacrifices, and martyrs, I say to you: Brother President Struggler 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih: Thank you, thank you, and thank you. We will remain together and side by side until we pray together at the Al-Aqsa Mosque, God willing. [Applause]

[Reporter] We are all happy to lay down the foundation stone for the new premises of the embassy of the State of Palestine. We would like to hear the brother secretary general make a statement to the news media on this occasion.

['Arafat, interrupting] The Yemeni people donated this plot of land. This is a very important point that the entire world should know about.

[Salih] This tract of land is a gift presented by the government of the YAR people as part of our people's support for their brothers in the State of Palestine. As our people in the northern part of the homeland stood alongside the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle to regain the Palestinian Arab right and

establish the Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, [words indistinct]. This donation of a tract of land on behalf of the YAR Government is a modest contribution from the Yemeni people.

['Arafat] The blood of the Yemeni people was mixed with that of the Palestinian people in all of our battles, inside the occupied territories and in the areas overlooking the occupied territories. In each of our battles, the pure Yemeni blood was mixed with the blood of Palestinian martyrs. [words indistinct] God willing, this overflowing giving will continue until we hoist the Yemeni, and Palestinian flags, as well as the flag of our Arab nation over Jerusalem, over the walls, minarets, and churches, of Jerusalem, God willing. [Applause] [End recording]

A number of brother ministers, Standing Committee members, members of the Arab diplomatic corps accredited in Sanaa, and the delegation accompanying brother Yasir 'Arafat attended the foundation stone-laying ceremony.

'Arafat Makes Statement, Leaves

JN1001154089 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Sanaa today after a 2-day visit to our country. In a statement to SABA', he expressed happiness for this blessed visit during which he met with Colonel leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic and secretary general of the General People's Congress, who granted the Palestinian people a piece of land for the future embassy of the state of Palestine. A cornerstone was laid for the embassy in Sanaa today. This indicates a close and strong relationship between the Yemeni and Palestinian peoples, whose bloods mixed from the start of the Palestinian people's revolution in the holy lands and during all the battles waged by the Palestinians.

'Arafat also said that he held talks with the president leader in a brotherly and cordial atmosphere on all aspects of the Palestine question, especially after recent developments in the PNC's session, in the international arena of the United Nations in Geneva, and in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. He added that the talks also centered on the importance of quickly convening the international conference to find a just and comprehensive solution to the region's problem. He pointed out that proceeding from these principles, they stressed the importance of convening an ordinary or extraordinary Arab summit conference so that the Arab leaders can confront all the challenges.

In so doing, they took into consideration the seriousness of the Israeli threats represented by the iron fist policy they have decided to escalate against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The two leaders also said that these Israeli threats were represented by the war scenario they are preparing in southern Lebanon against the Lebanese villages and cities and the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon, and by their statements and attempts to carry out aggressive plans against some Arab countries, especially Libya which is now facing an Israeli-U.S. threat. They added that current threats by Israeli military circles not only against Libya, but also against other Arab countries, are part of the overall Israeli threats.

Concluding his statement, brother Yasir 'Arafat said that his talks with the president leader have produced important, positive, and constructive results as usual. He was seen off by brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Jamil 'Arafat, ambassador of the State of Palestine in Sanaa; a representative of the presidential protocol; and a number of the Palestinian revolution's cadres in Sanaa.

Minister Returns From Netherlands, USSR Visits

JN0401214789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, and head of the Central Planning Organ, returned to Sanaa yesterday after paying official visits to the Netherlands and the USSR. In a statement to SABA' news agency, Dr al-'Attar explained that during visit to the Netherlands, he attended the opening ceremony of the Yemeni culture exhibition and headed the Yemeni side to the annual talks for development cooperation between our country and the Netherlands. Bilateral cooperation plans were discussed. He said that the talks with the Netherlands Government resulted in the allocation of 47,610,000 guilders for projects in the 1989 public and private cooperation program. He added that discussion also dealt with and assessed the progress of joint Yemeni-Netherlands projects. He said the two sides agreed over some future projects.

On his visit to the USSR, Dr al-'Attar expalined that during this visit he led the Yemeni side to meetings of the third session of the joint permanent governmental committee for economic, technical, and trade coopoeration between our country and the Soviet Union. He indicated that during this session, discussion dealt with joint projects and future prospects for economic and technical cooperation in various spheres, including cement, ports, dams, roads, electricity, and geological studies on the exploration of minerals, oil, and gas.

Concluding his statement, Dr al-'Attar expressed satisfaction with the success of his visits to the Netherlands and the Soviet Union. He said these visits bolstered bilateral relations and enhanced the desire to promote ties and expand spheres of cooperation between our country and both the Netherlands and the Soviet Union.

President Receives Najibullah, Ershad Messages

JN0701165689 Baghdad INA in English 1520 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 7, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received here two written messages from President Mohammad Najibullah of Afghanistan and President Hussain Mohammad Ershad of Bangladesh.

The Afghan president's message was delivered to President Husayn by Mr. Nezammudin Tahzib, president of the Supreme Court and personal envoy of the Afghan president. The message of President Ershad was handed over to President Husayn by Mr. Maulana Abdul Man'an, envoy of the president of Bangladesh.

The two messages are related to relations between Iraq and both Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

The two audiences were attended by Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, acting foreign minister.

President Sends Condolences on Hirohito's Death

JN0701165789 Baghdad INA in English 1532 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 7, INA—President Saddam Husayn sent a condolence message to Japan's Emperor Akihito over Emperor Hirohito's death.

In his message, President Saddam Husayn expressed deep sorrow for the death of Japan's Emperor Hirohito, and offered his condolences to Emperor Akihito, the deceased emperor's family and the Japanese people in his name and on behalf of the Iraqi people.

Ramadan Cited on 'Reconciliation' With Syria

LD1001164189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1515 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 10 (KUNA)—Iraq's First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan was quoted by a Kuwaiti daily as saying that his country has no objection to reconcile with Syria if such reconciliation would be in the interest of Arab joint action.

In a news despatch from Cairo, AL-ANBA' daily, published here today, quoted Ramadan as saying that nothing has developed so far regarding reconciliation between Syria and Iraq.

Saudi crown prince and first deputy premier, Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, held talks in Damascus Jan 6 with President Hafiz al-Asad within the framework of the Kingdom's efforts to close ranks between Arab countries.

Ramadan stressed the importance of restoring Egypt to the Arab League to enable it to take part in upcoming Arab summits.

Speaking about home affairs, Ramadan told the paper that the post-war era following the ceasefire is more difficult than the war stage "particularly because we are on the threshold of a stage which has special complications." He did not elaborate.

Ramadan accused Iran of publicising Zionist-American allegations accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons.

He said such accusations were due to the profound anxiety resulting from Iran's defeat, adding that the whole world knows that the U.S. and Israel possess chemical weapons at the time the U.S. calls for a ban on the usage of the chemical weapons.

On whether Iraq would join the Gulf Cooperation Council, Ramadan said "the GCC is a homogeneous body and the admission of any country would make it lose its homogeneity." But he added if the issue was presented to Iraq it would be thoroughly discussed. Some circles were circulating that Iraq wants to join the GCC to control it.

U.S. Congressman Specter Arrives With Delegation

JN0601190889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—U.S. Congressman Arlen Specter and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Baghdad today on a several-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the U.S. delegation will hold talks with a number of Iraqi officials on means of promoting bilateral relations, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

Meets With Sa'dun Hammadi

JN0701182689 Baghdad INA in English 1638 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 7, INA—Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), minister of state for foreign affairs today received here Mr. Arlen Specter, member of the U.S. Congress and the accompaning delegation.

During the meeting, attended by the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, bilateral relations and means of developing them were discussed.

The U.S. Congress member and the delegation accompanying him are now here on a visit to Iraq.

New INA General Director Assumes Post 5 Jan

JN0501173789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—'Adnan al-Juburi today assumed his new post as the general director of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, INA. 'Adnan al-Juburi succeeds Sa'd al-Bazzaz, who became the general director of radio and television. Al-Juburi was the general director of Iraqi radios.

UN Observers Commander Leaves for Tehran

JN0401174589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] SFRY General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group, left Baghdad for Tehran at noon today.

Papers Criticize Velayati's Withdrawal Proposal

JN0601124689 Baghdad INA in Arabic in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—Newspapers published here today strongly criticize the message that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati addressed to the secretary general of the United Nations last Tuesday, saying Velayati pursues a misleading method when he calls for effecting troop withdrawal away from the negotiations.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that Iran has pursued this misleading method before and after the beginning of the negotiations in Geneva. This method, the paper adds, has always been directly behind the obstruction of the negotiations and the delay in implementing the provisions of Resolution 598.

The paper adds: The Iranian rulers' request for effecting troop withdrawal—a provision in the UN resolution—away from the negotiations, as Velayati's message suggests, is contrary to all logic and has no legal basis. There is also no justification for such a proposal. Velayati's message to the UN secretary general which was broadcast by Tehran radio last Tuesday said "withdrawal to the international borders must be effected away from any negotiations."

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms: Withdrawal is one of the clauses of Resolution 598. Therefore, we cannot jump to it without first reaching complete agreement on cease-fire arrangements in the air, at sea, and on land since this is the right key toward implementing the resolution.

The paper says: Iran is making an issue of the withdrwal in order to hamper the negotiations. It is obvious that the Iranian rulers are harboring ill intentions by placing this new obstacle in the way of negotiations. Their intentions are no secret to anyone. The Iranian rulers must understand that had they been serious and sincere about their efforts to implement Resolution 598, they would not have brought up the subject of withdrawal, especially since it is will well-known in wars that such matters are settled in the negotiations.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the right way to tackle the subject of troop withdrawal is through documented negotiations—the best guarantee for both sides and for the peace process and its future. The paper urges Iranian rulers to stop dealing with the provisions of the UN resolution on a selective basis and to stop placing obstacles and impossible conditions on the path of the negotiations. It says: The Iranian rulers know full well that they are the side which is hampering the peace negotiations by refusing to reach an agreement on the cease-fire arrangements and its rules and by avoiding the documentation of this agreement.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that Iraq does not have any ambitions on a single inch of Iranian territory. In fact, the paper says, Iraq has presented tangible proof of this on more than one occcasion before and after the issuance of Resolution 598. The paper says that the Iranians are entertaining these ill intentions to deprive Iraq of its legitimate right to benefit on an equal footing from the cease-fire advantages, foremost of which are its legitimate right to complete freedom of shipping in the Arab Gulf and its natural right to clear Shatt al-'Arab.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that Iraq has already suggested to the Iranian side one of two courses for implementing Resolution 598: To implement the resolution according to the sequence of its operative clauses, or to consider the resolution as one whole package. However, they did not choose either course.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Velayati is placing Iran's sick wishes in the place of the clear obligations stipulated in the provisions of Resolution 598. The paper adds: There is not a single article or clause in the resolution that can be separated or singled out through the personal wish of any side without prejudicing the clear, responsible, and practical commitment to the provisions of a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace as provided for in the operative clauses of Resolution 598.

AL-THAWRAH says: Velayati's message calls for suspicion. It reminds us of Iran's continuous attempts to hamper the peace process and negotiations. Peace has been and still is a sublime Iraqi objective. Iraq fought for it and accepted all resolutions and initiatives and cooperated with all efforts and mediators because of it, including Resoution 598 when it was issued by the Security Council.

The paper affirms that Resolution 598 is a legitimate international resolution whose provisions are interlinked and in their proper sequence. This resolution cannot be a cover for bad intentions.

Shamir Remark on UN Auspices 'Downplayed'
TA1101080689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev, Asher Wallfish, and Michel Zlotowki in Paris]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is considering a suggestion that peace talks be held under the aegis of the UN, along lines similar to the Iran-Iraq cease-fire talks which ended the Gulf War.

The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, told THE JERUSALEM POST last night, in the wake of remarks made by Shamir in the Knesset yesterday, that the prime minister considers the identity of the body that launches direct peace talks to be "marginal." He is, therefore, willing to consider a limited UN role in peace talks, as well as superpower auspices.

Ben-Aharon said that the UN's role might be similar to that of the international body in the direct talks launched last August in Geneva between Iran-Iraq in accordance with UN Secretary Council Resolution 598.

Shamir himself yesterday for the first time expressed a willingness to consider UN auspices, saying in remarks to a European Parliament delegation that "negotiations can be launched under the auspices of the great powers or the UN, providing they refrain from any involvement in the substance of the talks."

Ben-Aharon, however, downplayed the significance of Shamir's remark, saying that the prime minister has not altered his position concerning the body launching peace talks. "The main thing is direct negotiations. The question of who launches them is of marginal significance."

Sources noted last night that in the 1973 Geneva conference, which was co-chaired by the superpowers, the invitations to the negotiating sides were issued by the UN-secretary general Kurt Waldheim. [passage omitted].

Addressing the Knesset plenum Lord Plumb, the president of the European Parliament, confirmed EC support for an international conference, for talks with the PLO and for the Palestinians' right to self-determination. He added, however, that "European support for, or any realization of Palestinian rights, can only result from Palestinian acceptance of Israel's basic rights."

Rebuffing Shamir's assertions of a lack of balance, Plumb said: "I hope you will agree that ours is an even-handed approach." [passage omitted]

Rejecting European calls for talks with the PLO, Shamir told the European parliamentarians that "the Arabs have completely different scales of values from us, as witnessed in South Lebanon where Shi'ites are slaughtering each other and no one makes any effort to protest against this terrible tragedy."

Ben-Aharon said that no peace plan had yet been formulated in the Prime Minister's Office. The office also denied a report in yesterday's THE NATION which asserted that Arens had already presented the principles underlying the plan to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

"We still don't have a formal peace plan," said Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner, who termed THE NATION'S report "non-accurate speculations." [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Proposes 'Confederative Arrangement'
TA0601132989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Jan 89 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] A confederative arrangement based on links between Israeli and Arab factors east and west of the Jordan River can be considered after the transitional period of autonomy. HA'ARETZ heard these remarks yesterday from Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

Ben-Aharon, one of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's close aides, is taking part in the planning of Shamir's political moves on the eve of his visit to the United States. He emphasized that his remarks do not necessarily reflect the prime minister's plan, but he confirmed that they imply a rejection of the annexation of the territories.

Ben-Aharon contended that his proposed arrangement includes giving Jordan access to Israeli ports. According to him, a three-way structure is more feasible than a two-state confederation. He added that this would require "a common market or a currency arrangement," ensuing from the already existing connection between the shekel and the Jordanian dinar. Ben-Aharon stressed that any arrangement in the territories granting Jordan some status west of the Jordan River must be balanced by a parallel right for Israel.

The director general further said that Israel requires autonomy as an interim stage, during which it would be able to test the newly founded coexistence. He believes that after this stage, the Arabs of the territories should be offered maximum political expression in return for maximum security for Israel.

The political expression is not to include absolute sovereignty and is to be composed of two elements: local rule and the right to vote, and the right to be elected to the parliament east of the Jordan River. Ben-Aharon stressed that the latter does not mean that the territory would be an integral part of the Kingdom of Jordan.

Arens Returns From Chemical Weapons Conference

Holds News Conference

TA1001184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 10 Jan 89

[News conference by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens at Ben-Gurion Airport on his return from the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I had two meetings with the Egyptian foreign minister. The first was held 2 days ago. It began as a one-to-one talk and lasted 20 minutes. Later we met with a larger group of Israelis and Egyptians.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed his desire to meet again and hold a deeper dialogue, exploiting the fact that both of us were in Paris. We met for another one-on-one talk this morning for some 90 minutes and discussed all issues of mutual interest. I told the Egyptian foreign minister that Israeli-Egyptian relations—or the character and quality of these ties—are the basis for advancing the Middle East peace process. If this basis is firm—and is seen as firm by the Israeli public—then we can build on it. If this foundation is seen as having cracks, it will be very difficult to build on.

There are a number of important issues in the short run: the Tabah issue, which has not been finalized; the compensation to the victims of the Ra's al-Burqa' murders; and Israel's participation in the Cairo Trade Fair in March. I think it is clear to the Egyptians that their position on these issues will be seen as a sign of the state of Israeli-Egyptian relations.

We spoke at length on the peace process. I would not say we agree on this. One aspect of this issue on which there is no agreement with Egypt is their relations with the PLO. The Egyptians are in contact with the PLO. They think that contacts with the PLO are necessary. Our position, of course, is different, as is commonly known. I think it is also clear to the Egyptians.

On Peace Plan, PRC Ties

TA1001185389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Report by Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In his news conference upon his return, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens did not include many new points. Answering questions, however, he made three points worth mentioning. Asked whether he believes he managed to forestall the PLO onslaught, Minister Arens replied: I would not say so, but I made our position clear to the foreign ministers. I gave them food for thought.

Asked about the reported peace initiative, and whether he presented parts of it, Arens replied: The report is incorrect. At every opportunity I explained that the Government of Israel is considering these issues.

Asked whether in his meeting with the PRC foreign minister he received any signal that in the near future the PRC would establish diplomatic relations with Israel, he said: I did not receive any signals beyond what was agreed on in the meetings between the Israeli and Chinese UN ambassadors. The new Israeli Government will devote a lot of time to the peace issue. I have no doubt it will formalize its positions, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens concluded his news conference.

On Relations With USSR

TA1101060189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] It would appear that most of the obstacles to establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, from the Israeli point of view, have been removed. Is that correct and is it now up to the Soviet Union to reestablish relations?

[Arens] Well, I think probably all along it's been up to the Soviet Union to establish relations because, after all, it was the Soviet Union that severed these relations in 1967. Israel has always practiced the policy of universality of diplomatic relations and hasn't made diplomatic relations contingent on an agreement on policies or ideological sympathies between the countries involved.

Whatever hesitations we may have had in the past that were concerned with the fact that many Jews who had pursued Zionist activities had been imprisoned in the Soviet Union, that many Jews who had asked to leave the Soviet Union for Israel had not been allowed to leave, most of that has disappeared and to the best of my knowledge today there are no more prisoners of Zion and the restrictions on Jews leaving the Soviet Union clearly have been relaxed greatly. I expressed my appreciation to Mr Shevardnadze for that because the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union has gone up very significantly this past year. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Arens speaking upon his return from Paris, where he attended the 140-nation conference on chemical weapons.

USSR Decision on Chemical Weapons Welcomed

TA1001115889 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jan 89 p A8

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem yesterday congratulated the Soviet Union for declaring its intention to destroy the chemical weapons it possesses and for setting up a special body to handle the disposal of these weapons. Israel based its reaction on the announcement Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze made during the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons.

The Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the Soviet Union will serve as an example for other countries that possess such weapons.

European Parliament Delegation Chairman on Talks

TA1101124089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The 14th annual dialogue between Knesset and European Parliament delegations ended in Jerusalem today. The chairman of the European delegation, (Georges Sitrat) from France, said that he and his colleagues believe that an Israeli peace plan is being consolidated. He added that they fully understand Israel's demands to secure its safety. At the same time, they do not accept Israel's position rejecting any European role in providing auspices for the talks, and yet agreeing to superpower or UN aegis. He emphasized that geographically, Europe lies closer to the Middle East and is Israel's largest partner in foreign trade.

Shamir Attacks Italy's Middle East Policy

PM1101103689 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 6 Jan 89 p 4

[Unattributed report on interview Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir granted to EPOCA: "Italy in Love With 'Arafat"]

[Text] Rome—"Of all the countries in the world, I would say that Italy is the most biased." This very sharp attack on Italian foreign policy and on [Italian Foreign Minister] Giulio Andreotti's mediation attempts comes in an interview that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir granted to the weekly EPOCA, which is due on the newsstands Monday. A report on the interview has been released in advance.

Shamir's criticism is not confined to Italian politicians. "Not only the politicians," the Israeli prime minister says, "but the press and the public also have this biased attitude in favor of the PLO. I would like to add that I do not understand how a people so rich in history, so generous and considerate, can display such a love of 'Arafat and the PLO. Not even the murder of the child Tachet at the door of the Rome synagogue succeeded in shifting for more than a moment the attitude of the press, the public, and the government."

Asked about Italy's possible role and Andreotti's activities in the Middle Eastern area, Shamir remains resolutely critical.

"Every country," he says, "can contribute to a peace effort if it observes the following condition: It must be neutral.

"However, if in that country—as this is the case with Italy—all the parties, or almost all of them, are passionately biased in favor of one side, namely, the PLO, what role can it play in a peace process?"

Asked for his opinion of Andreotti's idea that it is necessary always to talk and deal with everyone, especially your adversaries, Shamir replies: "Yes, but here we are dealing with an absolute exaggeration. Believe me, Italy's attitude is more extreme that that of all the rest, and I cannot explain it." Shamir concludes by leveling a serious charge at the Italians: "You have always only one question in mind. It is: What are you doing here? Leave everything to the Palestinians."

The Israeli prime minister is also very tough with regard to the chances of a dialogue with the PLO. "Never, we will never negotiate with the PLO," he says, maintaining the same stance with regard to the possible existence of a Palestinian state alongside Israel: "A Palestinian state? Never."

Shamir is also asked what he thinks of the recent stance adopted by 'Arafat in recognizing the existence of the Israeli state. "I am sure," he replies, "that 'Arafat's remarks are dictated by tactical aims. It now suits him to tell the international public that he claims only part of the territory. Thus he can create a base that will enable him to continue the battle to secure the entire country. The moderate stance enables him to aim at the Israeli state's destruction with the aid not only of the Arab countries but also of Europe, including Italy. Do you perhaps believe that Israel should take part in this game that everyone likes so much?"

Shamir denies that the PLO can have changed its mind about Israel. "The PLO was founded 24 years ago with the specific aim of annihilating the Jewish state, because it believes we have no rights over this land. According to them, this land belongs to the Arabs, the Palestinians, and Israel has no right to exist. The Palestinian state should exist in Israel's place. So this is their struggle, their very philosophy. For them, we are a people of invaders. How can there be a change in this philosophy?" Shamir confirms his opposition to a peace conference: "A peace conference, which has always been requested by the PLO—which has never, however, requested direct talks—would be a festival of applause for the PLO, like Geneva. How would this benefit peace?"

With regard to the start of dialogue between the A
cans and PLO representatives, Shamir says: "The Ameri-
Americans' quest for peace and stability entaint the
attempt by someone to put the PLO's intentions tils an
test. That is their right," the Israeli prime minister to the
"We, however, have no need to make further inquir adds.
establish that the PLO aims to destroy Israel." ries to

The Israeli prime ministers says he is in favor of the
presence in the Mediterranean. "I have nothing ag U.S.
the American presence in the Mediterranean, which gainst
any case usual. It is a point of balance and a guarant is in
peace." tee of

Labor Young Guard Demand New Approach to P
TA0301150189 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew PLO
3 Jan 89 p A8

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] The Labor Party's Young Guard are deman
that the party platform, which includes firm opposiding
to any contact with the PLO, be altered and thatition
party's attitude toward the PLO be changed altoget the
This is the first such demand by an official party ther.
calling for a reassessment of the stand toward the Pody
and it stems from 'Arafat's latest declarations in Gen?LO,
eva.

The Young Guard's political committee, which votec
this unanimously, is requesting an extraordinary Cen on
Committee session to discuss the changes in the platfntral
and the legitimization of contacts with the PLO. It orm
decided to demand that the Labor Party faction in also
Knesset seek the speedy launching of a legislative pro the
that will revoke the law banning meetings with the Pcess
LO.

The Labor Party Young Guard also called on their p
to take action to bring about elections for the larty
councils in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza within 6 mon cal
Ofir Pines, chairman of the Young Guard's politiths.
committee, noted that there was an amazing show ical
unanimity between doves and hawks during the meeti of
ing.

Communist Party Member on Palestine Issue
AU0601194889 Sofia BTA in English 1841 GMT
6 Jan 89

[Text] Sofia, January 6 (BTA)—The speech of Ya
'Arafat in Algeria became possible thanks to the Sovsir
peace initiatives concerning regional conflicts, becaviet
of the Intifadah—an unprecedented people's uprisise
and after the session of the Palestinian National Cong,
gress, these are assessments of Mr David (Sasha) Khanon-
member of the Politburo of the CC of the Commun in,
Party of Israel, in an interview for the PO SVEist
weekly. TA

The interview is published in the first for this year iss
of the BTA's magazine on international politics. ue

Mr Khenin notes that in Washington's consent to hold talks with the PLO the Israeli Communists see a positive step, which must be followed by step forward on the side of the Israeli Government as well.

Long struggle is necessary on the part of all international forces—not only the USSR and the other socialist countries but the allies of the United States also. Because the crisis in the Middle East is not an ordinary local conflict but a serious threat for the peace in the whole world, says the Israeli Communist.

In his opinion, the new American position is an "important achievement of the world public opinion, of the socialist countries and the Palestinian people, insisting on the convening of an international conference on the Middle East."

Israel has always been afraid of the realistic approach, stresses Mr David Khenin. He thinks that the new position of the United States is a serious blow for the government in Tel Aviv. The polarization in Israel is increasing. "Now it is not only the Communist Party of Israel that stands for peace, but also some Zionist parties like Mapam and Ratz and a number of deputies from the Labour Party stand for talks with the PLO," says Mr Khenin.

Jordan, Saudi Arabia Soften Hajj Demands
TA0701084489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Jordan and Saudi Arabia have softened their demands of Israeli Muslims who want to perform the precept of the minor Hajj. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that, among other things, Jordan and Saudi Arabia agreed that the groups leaving for Mecca may include 50 pilgrims rather than 150, as had been required until now. It seems that this move was adopted after it transpired that the number of Muslims requesting to go to Mecca recently has largely decreased.

President Herzog Sends Condolences to Japan
TA0701204389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1800 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] This evening Israel's President Hayim Herzog sent a telegram offering condolences on behalf of the Israeli people to the Japanese crown prince and the Japanese nation upon the death of Emperor Hirohito.

HADASHOT Analyzes 2d Year of 'Uprising'
TA0601163089 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
6 Jan 89 pp 18, 21

[Commentary by Alex Fishman and Oren Kohen: "More Symposiums Will Be Held"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] On the verge of 1989, Israel and the PLO have returned to the starting point. For, as far as they are concerned, nothing will happen in the

intifadah [uprising] in 1989 that has not happened in 1988. There may be subtle differences that could make the present state of affairs more severe. Time still does most of the work. [passage omitted]

Toward the end of 1988, a wave of symposiums took place in Israel and around the world with Palestinian, Israeli, and other psychologists participating. They attempted to analyze what has happened to Israelis and Palestinians during the intifadah—what psychological changes they have undergone. The year of 1989 will see more such symposiums.

The turn in relations with the United States will bring a larger number of senators and senator assistants to the area by means of Libyan and Palestinian funds in the United States. The PLO is investing large sums of money in this effort. In the framework of the efforts to delegitimize the Israeli Government's policy, 'Arafat will attempt to organize events, such as tree planting, with a large participation of both Jews and Arabs in the territories. "The ship of return" may return again in 1989. This time, however, the PLO's international status would enable the ship to sail from the ports of Roterdam or Marseilles.

In 1989 the PLO will attempt to take over all sorts of clerical posts in the Israeli Civil Administration. Over a month ago, the PLO announced that it has transferred $1.6 million to Jordan. These funds are meant to pay salaries of some 7,000 local employees of the Civil Administration and some 2,000 health personnel. The clergy will receive monthly payments to range between 30 and 70 Jordanian dinars. They will try to create double loyalties. The same funds for the same purposes were provided in the past by Jordan. The PLO is stepping into its shoes. This trend will continue.

Yasir 'Arafat and, by extension, the PLO are at the peak of their popularity in the territories. In practice, however, he does not have full control over street level activity—over stone and firebomb throwers. He will try to gain such control this year, because this year the street struggle will determine the character and extent of violence.

It is believed in Israel that taking charge over the massive violence would make the organizations resort to familiar terror: squads, bombs, murders. In practice, the scene of violence in 1989 seems to be similar to that of 1988. 'Arafat does not have to work hard in order to make the world aware of the intifadah. It is aware of it already. It is aware of him. Sources in the IDF believe that in the past year the Palestinians have spent all their violent arsenal and will now take to terror, but the current arsenal is enough. The PLO does not need heavy artillery.

'Arafat has noted at the time that in order to make the popular uprising effective, a sum of some $600-800 million is needed. In 1988, he had only several dozen millions. It is not probable that he will have more in 1989. The means of transferring funds into the territories have been drastically limited. The bridges and the Amman City Bank are under tight Israeli inspection. A resident arriving from Jordan is allowed to bring with him 200 dinars every other month. In 1989, the PLO will fight over the western entrance to Israel; namely, Ben-Gurion Airport. Israel, on its part, will try to win on all fronts. This will entail legislation changes and a violation of civil rights. This is an important battle. Its results will directly effect the level of violence.

The PLO has several organizational problems to take care of. A suitable substitute for Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], whose "portfolio" has been distributed among several PLO figures, must be found. There is a need to try to get more funds into the territories to grease the wheels of the intifadah. An understanding must be obtained with opposition elements in the field in order to keep the ranks united.

The most important opposition element is the religious factor, which gained momentum in 1988. Its most significant operational arm is HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement], the semisecret and violent organization of the Muslim Brothers. Contrary to what Israel believes, it is not anti-'Arafat. It opposes the PLO way. The religious forces—the Muslim Brothers and the Islamic Jihad—will increase their power in 1989. They will be marginal in Judaea and Samaria. The large potential lies in Gaza.

The religious organizations today are standing at a crossroad in relation to the PLO as well as the struggle. Under current circumstances, the PLO stands a chance of bringing them over to its road. It will pay them in terms of seats on the executive boards, perhaps at the PNC, and of course in hard cash. If the PLO, however, favors an independent political move, a rift will occur. The Islamic Jihad and the Muslim Brothers have suffered a severe blow in Gaza. Dozens of their activists have been detained. They will need an extravagant operation to recover. The danger exists that in 1989 they could bring into the streets extreme violent activity that might get out of the PLO's hands.

The leftwing organizations—the DFLP and the PFLP—have, and in 1989 will, join 'Arafat. The disagreement they have with him concerns the Israeli Arabs. The PFLP favors calling them to join the struggle, while the communists oppose it. The communists prefer quiet demonstrations—slogans, a white flag, and a loudspeaker. They are good at organizing things and will focus their main activity on that in 1989.

The third opposition element is the rejectionist front organizations of Ahmad Jibril, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], and Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. They will cause trouble. They have two reasons for carrying out terrorist acts: 'Arafat and Israel. In 1988, they did not manage to win large support in the territories. They do

not have an organizational infrastructure; they do not have newpapers. What they do have is a few terrorist squads that they will send out in 1988 to sabotage any political moves.

In 1988, Israel adopted a policy of attrition. Palestinians were arrested, hurt economically, and shot at. Ultimately those who were affected by this attrition were Jews, particularly those living in the territories. A political development in 1989 may bring back what used to be called "terror against terror" or "the Jewish underground."

Both Israel and the Palestinians are set for the continuation of the struggle. Israel has adopted a certain modus operandi: ad hoc divisions, regional brigades, standing orders and procedures; in other words contingency plans.

Shin Bet has returned to the territories in full force, but even this organization has limited powers. At the beginning of 1989, it knows a lot more than it did in 1988, but it lacks the means of using such vast quantities of information. The quantity was, and will remain, one of its most important weapons.

Security elements in Israel wish to create an artificial separation between dealing with the violent elements and the political moves. For the time being, the Supreme Court has not been removed from the territories, and it seems it will not be in the future. Regulations concerning traffic of goods and funds have not been made more severe; no new decisions have been made in terms of the policy on media coverage; budgets for dealing with violence in the territories have not been raised, just the opposite. No new open fire regulations have been issued, and it is unlikely that any will be. The Palestinians will continue acting through the strike force committees, popular committees, and the National Command of the Uprising. There will be no great changes in weapons used by both sides. The fights will continue. The new year could be a turning point only if a third party intervenes; namely, the United States.

[On page 18 and 21 HADASHOT carries boxed reports by Alex Fishman and Oren Kohen on comments by Palestinian notables. The page 18 report cites Kan'an Sa'id, who is described as a Nabulus businessman and one of the "notable leaders" in the West Bank: "You must realize that we are a people in a search for identity and independence. It is hard to predict what shape the intifadah will assume in its 2d year. I suppose that some of the methods will remain, as will the demonstrations. In general, the intifadah is a strange game: We change tactics, and Israel finds new ways of dealing with them. Israel changes reaction, and we learn it and invent other methods. This is how it will go on. I do not know how long we will have to go on like this. I only know that our young generation is determined to reach its goal."]

Involvement in Amal-Hizballah Clashes Denied

TA1101152789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that Israel is not involved in the fighting between Amal and Hizballah. In a conversation with our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, the minister added that there have been no contacts between the Amal Movement and the IDF regarding the battles raging north of the security zone.

[Begin Rabin recording] Generally, during periods of fighting between two Lebanese elements, there is at least a temporary weakening in their ability to take action—if that is indeed their intention—against targets in the security zone; all the more so, against targets in Israel. Since attacks against targets within Israel are perpetrated mainly by the Palestinians, the fighting between Amal and Hizballah does not necessarily influence their ability to take such actions. [end recording]

Lubrani: Amal Avoiding Attacks in Security Zone

TA1101113789 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Jan 89 p 6

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in southern Lebanon, by Shmu'el Tal; date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Tal] Does the South Lebanese Army [SLA] assist Amal?

[Lubrani] It is preferable for the SLA that Amal beats Hizballah. That is the lesser evil. If Amal manages to get Hizballah out of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area it will ease the pressure on the security zone, although several Hizballah pockets will continue to exist there, such as at Maydun and Al-Luwayzah.

[Tal] So perhaps it pays for us to talk to them?

[Lubrani] We do not need to talk with Amal. Our talks with them are by signals, and it seems to me that they understand this language. The fact is that since the helicopter attack [29 December] they have almost completely avoided attacks against us.

Amal Reportedly Helping Palestinian Terrorists

TA0101124389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Text] Bowing to Syrian pressure, the Amal Movement has recently begun helping the Palestinian terrorist organizations send terrorist squads to the Israeli border, security sources stated over the weekend in light of the Shi'ite organization's increasing assistance to the Palestinians.

According to these sources, this assistance started several months ago but only on a small logistic scale, such as providing accommodations and guides to terrorist squads on their way to the Israeli border. However, ever since it signed the cooperation agreement with the Palestinians in southern Lebanon—which includes offering aid in attacks against Israel—the extent of Amal's involvement in terror activities directed against Israeli targets from Lebanon has increased.

The Syrian pressure on Amal, which has enjoyed Syria's support during recent years, is intended to help the organizations comprising the anti-'Arafat "Salvation Front" thwart his political initiative through spectacular terror operations.

In addition to helping these organizations, Syria has instructed Amal to assist Fatah personnel in south Lebanon in initiating actions against Israel. Syria's intention is to weaken 'Arafat personally and to drive a wedge between him and his men in Lebanon.

According to the sources, this change in policy has become possible due to the weakening of Amal's local leadership which for pragmatic reasons had so far avoided acting directly against Israel itself or allowing the Palestinians to act against Israel from their territory.

The changes in Amal's attitude and the assistance to terrorist activities against Israel are viewed with great severity by Israel. This is why the chief of staff and the commander of the Northern Command have sent several verbal warnings to the organization stating that Israel will not accept the involvement of "local elements" in terror activities. A more substantive message was Thursday's Air Force helicopter raid on a building belonging to the Shi'ite organization north of the security zone.

In the near future Israel will attack "specific targets" of Amal in order to force it to abandon its new policy and stick to the status quo of abstaining from any direct confrontations with the IDF and with Israel.

Shomron Discusses Attempted Infiltrations

TA1001201089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The chief of staff disclosed today that there were more than 30 foiled infiltration attempts on the northern border during the past year. Twelve squads reached the border fence while 14 were eliminated in the security zone.

Israel carried out 50 operations north of the security zone in which 80 terrorists were killed. In his address to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, General Shomron said that terrorist organizations under PLO control have not been active since November.

Lebanese Army Using Iraqi T-54's, T-55's

TA1001120689 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] South Lebanese Army sources have reported that Lebanese Army units under the command of Samir Ja'ja' have begun deploying dozens of tanks received as a gift from the Iraqi Army.

These are T-54's and T-55's which Iraq gave Ja'ja' at the end of the war with Iran. The tanks, several dozen in number, were transported from Iraq to Beirut by sea. Their introduction into operational units improves the Lebanese Army's performance and deterrent capability.

According to foreign reports, Iraq also intends to supply the Jordanian Army with used tanks.

Report Shows Decline in 'Terrorist Acts' in 1988

TA0401070189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] A summary of 1988 compiled by the UNIFIL commander in south Lebanon shows that less terrorist acts were perpetrated in south Lebanon in 1988 than in any 1 of the past 4 years. According to the UNIFIL report, 137 terrorists were killed in south Lebanon last year. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

The UNIFIL mandate in south Lebanon does not correspond precisely to the security zone borders, but the events covered in the UNIFIL annual statistics illustrate trends which are of interest to us.

In the first 3 months of 1988, there was a sharp increase in terrorist attacks. In March, for instance, 120 attempted attacks were recorded in south Lebanon. In April, when the infighting between the Shi'ite Amal and Hizballah organizations began, there was a dramatic decline in the number of terrorist attacks. The conclusion is obvious: The fact that the Shi'ites shoot at each other is very good for the Jews.

Among the other factors mentioned in the UNIFIL report as contributing to the decline in attacks is the massive reinforcement of South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions in the security zone, as reflected in additional fortifications, weapons, and soldiers.

Another contributing factor is the extensive use the IDF has made of assault helicopters against terrorist squads.

According to the UNIFIL report, 137 terrorists from various organizations were killed in 1988. In 1987, 165 terrorists were killed. UNIFIL has also recorded 31 SLA fatalities, compared with 64 in 1987.

A senior officer in the Northern Command has noted that the UNIFIL statistics are somewhat misleading. Although the terrorists have decreased the attacks on security zone positions, they are now concentrating their efforts on attempts to reach the Israeli border, instead of the previous wan attempts to attack positions from a distance.

Radio on 'Arafat 'Threat' to West Bank Notables

JN0301174689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 3 Jan 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: While in Riyadh, Yasir 'Arafat yesterday threatened that any Palestinian leader who proposes or calls for stopping the uprising or who tries to put an end to it exposes himself to the risk of being assassinated by the sons of his people. He added that the PLO knows how to deal with such a leader.

It is obvious that 'Arafat explicitly addressed his threat to West Bank and Gaza figures, including Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who recently proposed and called for a truce or for stopping the uprising for 1 year. These Palestinian figures made their proposal on the basis of their conviction that their proposal serves the interest of the Palestinians, especially the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza.

It is to be mentioned that the Center for Strategic and International Studies recently published a report on the elapse of 1 year since the beginning of the uprising. The report says that the uprising has changed the world's view toward the Arab-Israeli dispute but did not bring a resolution to the Palestine problem even 1 inch closer. This academic center is a think tank of liberal orientation and enjoys world prestige because of its studies' known objectivity and high standards.

However, 'Arafat's threat provides a new piece of evidence on the already known fact that the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza used and continue to live under the threat of mental and physical terrorism posed by the leaders of the [Palestinian] organizations and by the leaders of the organizations against each other. 'Arafat's flagarant threat clearly reflects the concept of democracy claimed by the leaders of the organizations and the concept of democracy that Yasir 'Arafat promises to apply and practice in his state, which he recently proclaimed in Algeria.

Palestinian Communist Party Opposes Elections

TA0301124289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 3 Jan 89 p 15

[Report by Oren Kohen, Shmu'el Tal, ITIM, and Helen Hazan from Vienna]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Palestinian Communist Party in the territories yesterday issued a manifesto expressing opposition to elections in the territories and to autonomy based on the Camp David accords. The manifesto also says that the processes that are taking place constitute the beginning of a sweeping move which will lead to an international conference.

Yesterday the IDF lifted the curfew from the Gaza Strip, allowing tens of thousands of locals to go to work in Israel. The curfew on the Al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood of Gaza City, the Jabalyah refugee camp, and Al-Zubaydah near Dayr al-Balah still remains in force. There were riots in several places throughout the Gaza Strip yesterday, and a commercial strike was staged in Gaza to protest the deportations. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew carries a report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef on page A9, adding that "a Molotov cocktail was hurled at a Border Police patrol in the Abu Tor neighborhood of Jerusalem yesterday. It missed and failed to ignite."]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Ultraorthodox Plant Bombs

TA0101134389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Jan 89

[Text] The ultraorthodox organization Qeshet has taken responsibility for the planting of incendiary devices on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway last night. Our correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that it is suspected that Qeshet members planted similar devices in Bene Beraq the night before. On their way to Jerusalem, they wanted to get rid of the remainder and hurled them onto the side of the road.

Man Sentenced for Stoning

TA0801123289 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Jan 89 p 8

[ITIM report]

[Text] Sa'id 'Abd al-Qadir, a 19-year-old Al-Taiyiba man, was sentenced to a year in prison by the Tel Aviv District Court on Friday for stoning a bus last July 28. "Throwing stones at vehicles on the country's roads seriously harms the public, endangers its welfare and makes life intolerable," the court declared.

IDF Gunfire Wounds 10

TA1001185689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Some 10 people were wounded in the territories today by IDF gunfire. Three people, including an 8-year-old girl, were wounded in the Tulkarm refugee camp. Two were wounded at the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. A 16-year-old girl who suffered critical wounds was transferred to an Israeli hospital.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there was no strike in the territories today, but that there were many stoning incidents. Studies resumed in Judaea and Samaria and there were no reports of incidents.

Prisoner Injured in Demonstration at Prison

TA1101065789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] In a violent disturbance at the Qezi'ot detention center in the south earlier this week one Arab prisoner was slightly injured. News of the incident, which took place on Sunday, was only released last night. In reply to a question by our reporter, the Southern Command spokesman said that the violence began during a medical checkup conducted by the camp doctors. Camp guards at one point fired in the air to restore order. One inmate was slightly hurt, given treatment, and returned to the camp enclosure.

Knesset Member Husayn Faris of the MAPAM Party has called on Defense Minister Rabin to investigate the incident.

From today, defense lawyers will be allowed to renew visits to Qezi'ot. They were halted in the wake of the rioting at the camp.

Inner Cabinet Debates Tabah, Ties With Egypt

TA1101120689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Inner Cabinet today began discussing the Tabah affair and Israeli-Egyptian relations. The foreign minister and Foreign Ministry experts reported on recent contacts with the Egyptians. The Inner Cabinet will continue the discussions at an extraordinary meeting, probably at the start of next week.

Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that Minister Sharon voiced his anger over the positioning of the border markers in accordance with the arbitration ruling, without the approval of the Inner Cabinet. He was told that the Knesset approved the arbitration ruling, and that the forum of prime ministers decided on the positioning of the border markers.

Knesset Defeats 6 No-Confidence Motions

TA1001202089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Knesset defeated six no-confidence motions against the government tonight over the new economic plan. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the motions were submitted by the Citizens' Rights Movement, Tehiya, MAPAM, HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], the Progressive List for Peace, and Knesset Member Darawshah.

Finance Minister Peres said in his response to the motions that he thinks all day about how to help the ordinary man, how to avoid unemployment, and how to cut inflation. Representatives of the ultraorthodox parties protested the cuts in allocations to religious seminaries.

Mosad Director To Complete Term 'in a Few Days'

TA1101053089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The head of Israel's secret service organization, the Mosad, is due to complete his term of service in a few days time. He was director of the Mosad for 6 years. The Voice of Israel's political affairs reporter, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, says that two candidates are in the running to replace him: a senior member of the service and someone from outside. Our military affairs reporter adds that the coalition agreement signed between the Likud and Labor provides for consultation between Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Premier Peres on the appointment. [passage omitted]

Drop in Foreign Debt Deficit Reported

TA0501140389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Jan 89

[Text] The Central Bureau of Statistics has reported a drop in Israel's foreign debt deficit over the first 9 months of the year. The deficit now stands at $1.4 billion, $300 million less than the deficit level during the same period last year. Our correspondent Arye Salman reports that the Central Bureau of Statistics data indicates that direct defense-related imports went down by 27 percent during that period while the export of goods and services grew by 17 percent. Private imports also rose 17 percent. State revenues from foreign sources plunged by 6.5 percent, whereas Israel's foreign debts increased by $300 million.

Shekel Devalued by 0.66 Percent 9 Jan

TA0901132789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In its first devaluation since 1 January, the shekel was devalued today by 0.66 percent in relation to the U.S. dollar. The official exchange rate today stands at 1.826 shekels to the dollar. Bank of Israel sources told our economic correspondent Me'ir Einstein that the devaluation is a result of the strengthening of the dollar on world currency markets.

Official Releases Drug Abuse Statistics

TA1001140589 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jan 89 p 10

[ITIM report]

[Summary] Elyaqim Rubinstein, cabinet secretary and chairman of the Authority on Drug Abuse, reported yesterday that approximately 50 deaths from overdose

are reported annually; 15,000 individuals are drug addicts; some 30,000 are regular users; and approximately 200,000 take drugs occasionally. The Israeli drug market encompasses billions of shekels each year. Deputy Commander Rafi Peled, head of the Israeli Police Intelligence and Detectives Division, pointed out that a rise has been noted in demand for hard drugs in Israel over the past few years. He claimed that hashish, which was the most common drug in 1975, has yielded to heroin. Since 1981, demand for cocaine has also risen. Hard drug abuse as a percentage of all drug abuse has increased from 16 percent in 1981 to 50 percent in 1988.

Peled reported that last year at least 1,500 kg of heroin, approximately 250 kg of cocaine, and some 40 tons of hashish were delivered to Israel. This also increases the drug-related crime rate. Thus, last year charges were filed against approximately 2,000 drug dealers compared to only 6 in 1974. Of the defendants, some 1,200 were subsequently sent to jail.

A recent survey indicates that 6 percent of students in the educational system and 25 percent of the youths outside it use drugs.

Importer of Heroin, Hashish Sentenced to Prison

TA0101141989 [Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 1 January 1989 in a report by Moshe Perl on page 14 reports that Yosi Elimelekh, who was convicted for importing dangerous drugs through the international mail, was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

An ITIM report on page 14 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 1 January reports that 52-year-old Shaykh Muhammad Abu Qarinat from the Negev was convicted of possessing and selling heroin and hashish, after he sold an undercover agent 10.64 grams of heroin for the amount of 1,500 shekels, and later 250.8 grams of heroin for the amount of 54,000 shekels. He received a sentence of 4 ½ years in prison and two years suspended sentence.

Peace Plan Seeks To Revive Camp David

TA1001165289 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 9 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Paris Meeting and the Israeli Veil"]

[Text] In his meeting yesterday with his Israeli counterpart on the sidelines of the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz reviewed bilateral relations, especially issues on which they agree or disagree, including the proposed Israeli peace plan.

Israeli newspapers have reported the outlines of the plan that Israel intends to put forward; they show that the plan ignores the evolutions in the Palestinian arena and the new Palestinian direction that seeks to establish peace in the region. Rather, it retreats, trying to revive the Camp David accords in a new framework.

There is a consensus that these accords, which proposed the autonomy plan, are no longer valid. The Palestinian side is present today on the international scene and Israel has to address it. The new Israeli plan ignores the PLO's existence and suggests the holding of elections in the occupied areas without PLO participation. In this plan, Israel seeks to negotiate with the Arab states without letting the PLO take part in the negotiations.

These new-old Israeli positions cannot possibly succeed now that the PLO has recognized Israel's existence, renounced terrorism, accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, agreed to international legitimacy, proclaimed a Palestinian state, and started a dialogue with the United States.

The solidarity of world public opinion with the new Palestinian direction and recognition of the Palestinian state pose an important question: How long can Arens and the Israeli leadership ignore this public opinion?

The dialogue that has begun between the PLO and the United States proves that the region is experiencing a fundamental change. Israel, however, believes it can halt this peaceful Palestinian momentum that has altered the concepts that the countries of the world have for the Palestinian problem. The Israeli Government's stance toward the Arab-Israeli conflict, the crux of which is the Palestinian problem, is still in slow motion, refusing to respond positively to the Palestinian desire for peace. This stand also refuses to succumb to international will as demanded by the international community for convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

It is not possible to create any breakthrough in the Israeli intransigence that rejects the logic of a just and comprehensive peace in the region except if the United States exerts pressure on Israel, being the only ally that can moderate the Israeli positions.

The new administration in Washington is required to bear its responsibilities toward world peace, attaching special significance to the Middle East in view of the dangers that will emanate from the continuation of the conflict.

With the uprising in the occupied territories entering its 14th month and representing the will of a nation aspiring for freedom and independence, we hope that Shultz, who will leave his post in a few days, tried to lift the veil from Arens' eyes to enable him to see the breakthrough that the Palestinian orientation is achieving in the world while Israel's isolation is simultaneously increasing.

Al-Khasawinah Comments o PLO, Other Issues

JN0701093589 Amman AL-RA Y in Arabic
7 Jan 89 p 17

[Interview with Information M nister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by a number of AL-RA Y correspondents—date not given]

[Text] [AL-RA'Y] The Jordani an-Palestinian relationship is special and distinguishe d from other Arab relations. The pan-Arab awareness a nd fate have placed this relationship within a unique fr mework. However, the decision to disengage the West B nk from Jordan aimed, among other things, at laying do wn new foundations for this relationship which began to take on a new image. To what extent has Jordan succe ded in its decision to straighten out this relationship?

[Al-Khasawinah] The decision of disengagement with the occupied West Bank did n ot mean at all that the Jordanian Arab people or their brothers the Palestinian Arab people are separatists. sensitivities, misunderstanding, or doubts sometimes appear among people or even within one family. This is not the occasion to say that these doubts are cast by ene mies. History will judge if the Jordanian stand on the Palestine question was right or wrong. History and Ara b historians and politicians will assess and judge the Jordanian stand. The important thing is that the relat onship between Jordan and the PLO before the disen gagement decision was beset by impurities and doubts from which the honest Jordanians and Palestinians suf fered.

The disengagement decision was preceded by clear national and pan-Arab views. Th e most prominent view is that the decision was a detach ment for the purpose of attachment. The sensitive poin is that the Palestinian brothers believed that Jordan wa nted to annex the West Bank and Gaza and that Jordan wanted to compete with the PLO for the sole represent tion of the Palestinian people. Jordan abandoned thes e two points and then declared its support for the P lestinian state. Jordan frequently reiterated its stand th at it will not enter into any kind of union before the est blishment of the Palestinian state; it will not replace th e PLO in any represen tation of the Palestinian people; it will not represent the Palestinian people; and it will su pport any decision made by the PLO on the Palestine que tion. With the removal of the sensitive point, the basis h s been straightened for a cordial, fraternal relationship. For this reason, and since the adoption of the disen gagement decision, Jordan adhered to every stand it an nounced with regard to supporting the PLO and its poli tical approach, particularly after the PNC Algiers sessio n and the proclamation of the Palestinian state.

Jordan also supported, gave mo mentum to, and turned the disengagement decision into an opportunity to strengthen and support the PL O. On this basis, His Majesty King Husayn and Jord n played a big role in defending and explaining the r sponsible and binding Palestinian stand decided in Algiers as well as the stand on moving the UN meetings to Geneva to listen to brother Yasir 'Arafat's speech in the name of Palestine. For the first time in 20 years of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the Palestinian brothers became confident that Jordan had no non-national ambitions in Palestine. Jordan's stand became appreciated by the PLO leadership. Consultations and coordination are held between the Kingdom and the PLO under the umbrella of pan-Arab fraternity, love, and confidence. [AL-RA'Y] You said that after the disengagement decision, the basis on which we stand has been straightened. It is obvious now that Jordan and the PLO constitute the spearhead of the Arab political movement. To what extent has the disengagemet decision succeeded in contributing toward the achievements of the PLO in its latest political moves?

[Al-Khasawinah] We in Jordan and in the PLO are part of the Arab nation, which is concerned with the pan-Arab Palestinian cause. The disengagement decision was significant in that it ended the atmosphere of doubt and mistrust and the illusions that these doubts created between the fraternal Palestinian and Jordanian peoples. The decision prevented the appearance of imaginary hostilities and the spreading of the enemies' intrigues and ploys, such as the alternative homeland ploy and the attempt to fabricate a dispute between the Palestinian people's struggle to establish their identity on Palestinian soil and their immediate brothers the Jordanian people and their right to preserve their Jordanian Arab national identity.

The disengagement decision preempted the attempts of these enemies. The Palestinian brothers realized that Jordan has no ambitions. They realized that Jordan supports them in tackling the Palestinian issue and stands by them in backing the fraternal Palestinian people, who are confronting the occupation by their heroic uprising. They realized that Jordan is also building the modern Jordanian state and preserving its national unity for its sons and citizens. They realized that it is an Arab state, which means that it is connected to the Arab nation's causes and struggle, particularly the Palestinian cause.

In this healthy atmosphere, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, through their ever expanding cooperation and coordination, can form a sound and exemplary vanguard movement for joint Arab action, especially since the Jordanian and Palestinian people, in addition to Syria, are bearing the brunt of the direct confrontation with Israel. They require Arab support and backing to remain steadfast and preserve the Palestinian Arab identity and strengthen the steadfastness of the Jordanian state.

[AL-RA'Y] His Majesty King Husayn was at the forefront of those who called for an international conference. His majesty played a great role in crystallizing this idea on the international level, particularly in the European arena. The European concept in this regard is now more

advanced than the American concept. How far have our talks reached with the Europeans and the United States concerning the international conference?

[Al-Khasawinah] Actually, the U.S.-PLO dialogue has been a big and important step. It is necessary to reach the hoped-for results and realize a just peace that is acceptable—especially to the Palestinian side. There is no place here to speak about the basic and important role that His Majesty King Husayn played in explaining the justice of the sound Palestinian position following the recent PNC meeting. Jordan is not accustomed to boasting about its pan-Arab role. Everybody knows that King Husayn has close friendships with influential leaders of the world. This friendship was exploited to the greatest extent possible during the crisis that resulted in connection with brother Yasir 'Arafat's speech at the United Nations and the U.S. refusal to grant him an entry visa. These efforts succeeded and the UN debate was transferred to Geneva.

This phase is a transitional one in the United States. Hopefully, U.S. President-elect George Bush will play a positive role in terms of the need to convene the international conference. His Majesty King Husayn's friendship with Mr Bush is old and contacts are under way to make moves and hasten the convocation of the international conference as soon as President Bush begin's his term. These contacts are not confined to the new U.S. Administration but extend to the USSR and other permanent members of the UN Security Council. Contacts are also taking place with the Arab brothers to coordinate stands.

[AL-RA'Y] In their historical dealings with the successive U.S. Administrations, the Arabs used to begin their negotiations with each new administration from point zero, not from where they ended with preceding adminstrations. To what extent does this apply to the administrations of Reagan and Bush? Is the current stage different than previous ones so that negotiations with the Bush administration will begin where they ended with the Reagan administration? If this is the case, how far have our negotiations with the Reagan administration reached?

[Al-Khasawinah] Negotiations do not start from point zero but from firm political facts, such as the weakness of the Arab stand or the lack of coordination and common understanding among the Arabs. The Jewish influence in the United States is so effective that it controls U.S. decision-making. This Jewish influence is not confronted by an effective and coordinated Arab effort able to win the U.S. public opinion, and consequently, to affect the U.S. stand on the Middle East issue. There are positive factors in the U.S. stand. These include the fact that President-elect Bush has, over the past 15 years, occupied positions that allowed him to be informed of the international policy, including the Middle East issue. Also, developments in U.S.-Soviet relations and Arab developments are new factors that cause optimism that the Bush administration will be able to move effectively and positively with respect to the Middle East issue.

[AL-RA'Y] There is a pronouncement by some circles that Jordan lost its political role in the Middle East issue after the disengagement decision. To what extent is this true? And what is the motive behind promoting this pronouncement?

[Al-Khasawinah] We must stress the importance of alertness to such pronouncements, being part of the plot and trick that always wanted to change the Arab-Israeli conflict from a conflict between the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on one side and Israel on the other to a conflict between the Arabs themselves.

Jordan did not derive its role or existence as a state member of the Arab, regional, and international order from the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan existed in 1921 and continued until 1950—before the unity between the two banks—as an independent political entity. It was one of the seven Arab countries that founded the Arab League in 1945. The pronouncement that Jordan's role weakened after the disengagement decision is part of the hostile pressure campaign aimed at weakening the entire Arab entity through meaningless slogans. Jordan's weakness becomes a fact when it plays an unacceptable political role. The Jordanian role would have weakened considerably had Jordan agreed to hold negotiations with Israel on behalf of the Palestinian people, or had it persisted in disputing with the PLO over the representation of the Palestinians in the West Bank. Such a role would have weakened Jordan in the Arab world and subjected it to needless campaigns. The current Jordanian role, especially after the disengagement decision, stems from an understanding of the will and inclinations of the fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian people and those of the Arab nation. Therefore, Jordan's relations with the Palestinian brothers and with the Arabs and the world were enhanced. By virtue of its geographic location and the composition of its people, which makes it basically dependent on the human capabilities of its citizens, Jordan saw no weakness whatsoever in its role. Jordan has played and will continue to play a pan-Arab role derived from the nature of its entity and its Arab message, based on work to achieve Arab unity and build the Arab entity.

Jordanians are clever people and cannot be misled by these suspicious slogans. Also, Jordan can never play a role based on slogans raised by parties that are not originally concerned with the good of Jordan, Palestine, and the Arab nation. Hostile circles circulated rumors when the war was raging between fraternal Iraq and Iran and the picure of the Iranian threat was not clear. Those circles said then that Jordan weakened its international role by supporting Iraq, which is weaker than Iran.

However, Jordan did not pay attention to those pronouncements and performed its pan-Arab duty according to its belief. This reflected positively on Jordan's distinguished status on the Arab, regional, and international levels.

[AL-RA'Y] His Majesty King Husayn's efforts were instrumental in purifying the Arab atmosphere and building Arab solidarity. His majesty's moves were aimed at ironing out certain bilateral Arab issues and constructing a regional Arab economic group. To what extent have his majesty's efforts succeeded in this regard?

[Al-Khasawinah] Let me deal with issues from a different angle. His Majesty King Husayn is trying to preserve the Arab cooperation that was realized at the Amman summit, based on the realistic realization that if the Amman formula is not achieved, at least Arab differences should not be aggravated. Regarding the second part of the question, His Majesty King Husayn not only looks forward to realizing a regional Arab economic group. His majesty has always looked forward, especially at this stage, to realizing a formula suitable to the facts of this age, realizing the dreams of the Arab people in establishing a nucleus for one Arab entity in which not only the leaders will meet but the entire Arab people as well. This formula will form a basis for confronting the future challenges of building the integrated Arab society from social, political and economic standpoints. I can say that realizing this nucleus is presently the top priority in the efforts of the king and Jordan.

[AL-RA'Y] The problem of democracy has always engaged the attention of most world states and peoples. In Jordan, parliamentary life was suspended for some time. Then came the political measures that imposed a postponement of elections for the purpose of amending the election law. Can you give any timeframe for finalizing the law and holding elections?

[Al-Khasawinah] Certainly. Work is currently under way to revise the election law. A committee under the interior minister is to draft a new law, tackle it's shortcomings, and distribute it to constituencies. The minister said that the atmosphere will be ready for parliamentary elections before the end of this year.

[AL-RA'Y] This year's budget was different from previous budgets. It included new aspects indicating a new economic phase. Could you explain the circumstances of this phase and the circumstances that led to such a budget?

[Al-Khasawinah] The Jordanian people are educated and informed. The most important fact in our economic, financial, and monetary situation is that we have been affected by the recession and depression that has been affecting the Arab region or the so-called Middle East region. Our imports have surpassed our exports. Our foreign currency revenues have dropped. There was no solution except the responsible national solution, which is based on informing the people of the facts. This was the case. This problem should be dealt with out of an enlightened national spirit, invoking Jordan's distinctive experiment and with the participation of all those concerned and all experts. We have reached the logical conclusion that adopting the policy of controlling expenditure, that is, saving, is what is required. We also should learn to rely on ourselves and secure the requirements of the state and the society from our own resources. We can do this by increasing production, increasing the export of Jordanian commodities and services, and by other means, such as stopping needless expenditure and making do with our real income.

This is a national solution because the problem is a national one that concerns all Jordanians. Therefore, the citizens understood the problem and responded to the measures. Our Jordanian citizen began to organize his situation and that of his family in light of this fact. Praise be to God, we are proud of our economic achievements and will be able to overcome this period. In our great Arab and Islamic literature there is a verse saying that if you give rein to yourself you will want everything and if you are used to having a little you will be satisfied with what you have. We tackled the economic and financial crisis in an exemplary manner. The World Bank chairman, who visited Jordan recently, said that he cannot give Jordan advice in light of the measures taken to face the economic situation.

On the problem of unemployment, particularly regarding graduates, it is a real problem and was discussed in the wake of the budget law by the Council of Ministers. We will continue to live with this problem. It has been stated frankly that the government and its departments cannot just put those graduates on its payroll without giving them real work. This would be a kind of charity at the expense of the government's administrative structure, its performance, and efficiency. The government will absorb a few thousand in governmental posts to meet a real need. At the same time, the private sector has been instructed to take in however many it can. Also, talks are underway with a number of sisterly Arab countries to employ a number of Jordanian graduates and to support their salaries from the Kingdom's Treasury as was the case with fraternal Yemen.

It is more important to try to benefit from this problem by generalizing the importance of changing the view on the value of labor and workers in our country. In this country there are 100,000 job opportunities in the agricultural sector due to the imbalance in the structure of labor in Jordan and the change in social values as a result of the oil boom. The Jordanians refrain from working in agriculture for example. There are also thousands of job opportunities that are filled from outside the country. There are 30,000-40,000 unemployed people in Jordan, but at the same time there are 200,000 workers from outside the country.

[AL-RA'Y] The Jordanians are currently experiencing a stage that was experienced by the fraternal Egyptian people in the 60's; namely, making and repeating jokes. What is the reason behind this phenomenon?

[Al-Khasawinah] Peoples with a deep cultural background, like the Arab nation—and we are part of it—express themselves in various means, including through jokes. I would like to be frank and honest in this respect. The jokes that are being told in Jordan these days are like eating the flesh of the living, described by the holy Koran in the verse: "Would any of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? Nay, ye would abhor it." This gossip, slander, and injustice to officials and relatives is not fair to our Jordanian Arab people and Arab values, especially since Jordan is a small country and people know each other and know the facts. It is unjust to mix jokes with ruining the reputation of others. By virtue of the population composition and the family spirit enjoyed by the Jordanians and public work officials, we are all partners in this homeland. No one can claim that he loves Jordan more than anybody else.

He said: We are all partners in maintaining the stability and welfare of our country, not only materially, but also through the spirit of solidarity, brotherhood, and decent relationships. Everybody knows that the economic problem is not a result of bad management or of robbing the state Treasury. This is a country governed by law and financial, administrative, and judicial control. The door is open for every citizen who sees anything wrong in the management of the state and its financial interests to exercise control. This is why I am sad when I read reports by third degree journalists carrying these jokes while themselves describing them as obscene. I am sad because these journalists were told those jokes by some of their acquaintances in Amman. The known rule, even in a country like the United States, is that when one talks to a foreigner, he should avoid harming the officials of his country and show a spirit of responsibility. And in a country like the United States, every citizen, even if he is a former president, must report to the state on any meeting he holds with foreigners.

I really encourage meetings with Jordan's guests and foreign visitors. I hope that these foreigners will enjoy and reciprocate our respect and tolerance, which characterize our Arab culture and Jordanian life. By this we give a better impression about ourselves than the impression we give by wronging one another under the pretext that the recent crisis has enhanced our talent for jokes. The joke is one means of expression. The fraternal Egyptian people are a good example of the role the joke plays in enhancing national cohesion without becoming libelous or acrimonious.

[AL-RA'Y] Your Excellency, we want to end our questions by talking about our experience as journalists. We would like to know the restrictions on the journalistic profession and the extent of its freedom.

[Al-Khasawinah] First of all we are one family. This is the nature of Jordanian society and public work. We are connected with relationships of friendship and intimacy. If errors occur they should be dealt with within the framework of the spirit of brotherhood, friendship, and toleration. Therefore, all of the brother journalists are our sons, brothers, and friends. The state and homeland take care of them. There are no restrictions whatsoever concerning their right to work and write. However, there are certain rules that are legal and well-known. None of the Jordanian writers are asked to be parrots echoing what the government says. I will not accept any such writer. We have never wanted the journalists to abet wrongdoing. On the contrary, we realize the great role the Jordanian press and journalists play in entrenching the national and pan-Arab sentiments and tackling the negative aspects in our social, economic, and cultural lives. Therefore, I have been very careful from the beginning to meet with the editors and columnists for periodic briefings on the situation in the country.

There is no writer or columnist who could claim that he was forced to write one sentence or even one word. However, when a certain mistake is made, we like to deal with it in a spirit of responsibility and in a spirit of caring. We do not mean to spite anyone. The spirit of tolerance should be the way by which issues can be solved. For example, when a writer wrongs his country, fabricates nonexistent matters, and conveys such matters to foreigners, while knowing perfectly well that what he said was lies, then he is dismissed from his paper. In such a case, this writer has no right to say that he was dismissed from his paper because he loved Palestine more than others, that he cared for Jordan more than others, or that he has more national sentiments than others.

The minister said: These moral taboos have been taken care of. We should not justify our intentional, unjust insults by saying that we are more patriotic than others. This is a double-edged sword which we do not accept from anybody. I can say that had it not been for the economic recession and the recent crisis, we would have prepared measures aimed at organizing the journalistic profession, entrenching press freedom on a firm basis, and drawing up a press charter to which the journalists themselves will contribute, establishing the rules of censorship, its moral principles, and basic role. Even when considering some brothers who wronged their colleagues and brothers as well as officials in a moment of wild emotion, the rules of brotherhood and the spirit of tolerance have always been the principles that guided us. These rules will always be the final arbitor in such matters.

AL-RA'Y on Making PLO Office 'Embassy'

JN0801111289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Jan 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Jordanian-Palestinian Relations]

[Text] Through directives of His Majesty King Husayn and an agreement with the PLO, the PLO's office in

Amman was considered an embassy for Palestine as of yesterday. This positive development is in line with Jordan's pan-Arab stand—committed to supporting the Palestine question and the projection of the Palestinian presence and identity. Jordan has never hesitated to take steps conforming to this attitude, such as severing ties with the West Bank, recognizing the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state, and finally establishing diplomatic relations with this state on the highest level—namely, that of an embassy. No doubt this whole outcome in all of its dimensions is an interpretation of the reality of the special Jordanian-Palestinian relations, which are growing stronger day by day.

What calls for satisfaction and pride is that these relations themselves became clearer during the Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman over the past 2 days. His Majesty King Husayn asserted that the talks were excellent and satisfactory. No doubt, all this is bound to encourage Arab action and strenghten the confidence of the struggling Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their ability to confront challenges.

Jordanian-Palestinian relations are among the most important pillars of the new Arab reality, which the Arab masses are looking for. These relations are a model for better performance, courageous outlook, and commitment to pan-Arab responsibility. Certainly, these relations are among the basic elements of the intrinsic Arab power, which Jordan has always called for and has gone ahead in reinforcing. These excellent relations are also evidence of the seriousness of Arab action to regain the usurped Palestinian territory and enable the Palestinian people to exercise their rights on their national soil. At the same time, these relations represent a pan-Arab commitment to which Jordan adheres and the continuation of the constructive Jordanian role aimed at asserting the Palestinian presence and enabling Palestinian participation as a basic element in the aspired international conference.

Our Jordanian family is proud of the entrenched pan-Arab bases on which King Husayn has established Jordanian-Palestinian relations. Certainly, the Palestinian people are sharing with us this pride and find in these relations a power capable of pushing forward the process of Arab solidarity. There is no alternative to this solidarity to regain the usurped territory, establish real peace in the region, and exercise different options to achieve it.

Al-Huss Sends Message to Leaders on Tunis Meeting
NC0601182089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held a news conference at Government House at noon today. He reviewed the text of the long message he sent to the Arab kings and leaders prior to the Arab foreign ministers' council meeting in Tunis on 11 January.

Prime Minister al-Huss expressed his views of the Lebanese crisis in general and how to resolve it. He affirmed that change is the salt of democracy and the real touchstone of the democratic system. He stressed the principle of abolishing political sectarianism in all fields in order to realize justice, equality, and equal opportunity, and to apply a just formula for the various communities' participation in government until political sectarianism is abolished.

Prime Minister al-Huss reiterated the basis of a solution and the main causes of the current problem. He stressed the need to speed up the presidential elections as the primary means for ending the current ordeal. He emphasized the importance of an agreement among the Lebanese on the future of their homeland. He also emphasized the political reforms which must be introduced to the Lebanese system and Constitution and the nature of these reforms and where they must be carried out.

Prime Minister al-Huss said: Regarding the internal aspect of the Lebanese issue, the basic rights of man in his homeland must be guaranteed by creating a capable and just state and by an effective exercise of democracy. First of all, the issue concerns the lost rights of man in his homeland. This indeed is what the demand for justice, equality, and equal opportunity among the citizens means. The realization of these demands requires the abolition of political sectarianism. Until this is done, an agreement should be reached on a just formula for the participation of the various communities in government in order to end the ordeal.

Second, the Lebanese issue is one of commitment to building the state and its institutions. If a just and capable state had existed, then the complex of fear suffered by one group and that of injustice by another would not have existed. Third, the issue is one of developing democratic practices. If democracy were healthy in Lebanon, then there would not have been such an acute crisis. Developing the practice of democracy is important because it guarantees the opening of the road to regular and continuous change. Reform must not be confined to a deal which would be concluded after a crisis intensified. What is more useful is that change should become a continuous democratic experience to respond to the development of society's conditions, needs, and aspirations.

Prime Minister al-Huss stressed that change is the salt of democracy and, in the final analysis, is the real touchstone for the soundness of the democratic system. Al-Huss also stressed that the horizons for resolving the national crisis must be expanded when a national agreement is reached on how to treat the various aspects of the Lebanese issue. In other words, an agreement would:

1. Guarantee the rights of man in his homeland on the basis of the principle of abolishing political sectarianism in all fields in order to achieve justice, equality, and equal opportunities.

2. Apply a just formula for the various communities' participation in government until political sectarianism is abolished, starting with a constitutional amendment turning the cabinet into a center for procedural authority on the summit level instead of the Presidency.

3. Pave the way for building a capable and just state.

4. Lay down comprehensive political, development, construction, and administrative rules.

5. Develop the practice of democracy to become an effective safety valve in confronting events and problems and a regular and continuous tool of change.

6. Unify the national will and mobilize the material, intrinsic, human, and national resources to resist Zionist ambitions, confront the continuing aggression, and liberate the land from Israeli occupation.

Prime Minister al-Huss emphasized that if there is an agreement on these solutions, then the way to end the constitutional impasse—which is threatening Lebanon's unity and consequently its existence—would become easy through the election of a new president of the Republic and the formation of a unified government.

Regarding Lebanon's representation at the Arab foreign ministers conference, Prime Minister al-Huss said: Lebanon's ambassador at the Arab League will represent it or the post will remain vacant.

Al-Tufayli Comments on Amal-Hizballah Fighting
NC1101091989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with our radio on the events in Iqlim al-Tuffah, His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli said: Regrettably, we had to defend ourselves after we had vainly tried, in every way possible, to urge all conscientious people to deter the oppressor and stop the sedition sparked off by Nabih Birri.

Shaykh al-Tufayli drew attention to the fact that ever since Birri embarked on his sedition Hizballah has painstakingly tried to stop the bloodshed and heal the

wounds, in cooperation with the brothers in Syria and Iran, as well as with all ulema. But the problems remained unsolved, despite all the pledges and agreements.

His eminence continued: We were surprised at Birri's agreement with the Palestinians, which constituted a prelude to the launch of his offensive on the resistance positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Birri's gangs have committed the most heinous massacres against our kinfolk in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and other towns.

Shaykh al-Tufayli noted that the Islamic resistance positions have been under material and military siege for 6 months or more. The muhahidin took swift action to lift the siege imposed by Birri. The mujahidin had no intention of occupying the areas; they simply wished to lift the siege. The mujahidin withrew to defensive lines after having attained their objective.

On Amal's liberation of Kafr Killa, Shaykh al-Tufayli said that the mujahidin withdrew voluntarily from this and other townships 2 days ago. The high number of victims was caused by the frenzied bombardment of these areas by the Birri groups. He pointed out that according to reports the movement arrested young people from Kafr Milki and then slaughtered them.

His eminence declared Hizballah's readiness to reach an understanding and cooperate with all sides, noting that the mujahidin do not covet any ministerial post. They are only seeking to ensure that their resistance course is not obstructed, he said. He emphasized that the Islamic resistance will defend its presence. We will defend this resistance until the last drop of our blood, he stated.

Meanwhile, Shaykh al-Tufayli dismissed the Amal Movement's claims that Hizballah had committed massacres. He added that a plot is being hatched against the resistance, which has been placed under constant siege. He maintained that Hizballah operations were directed against Birri's fighters and not against the people. He said that those who were killed in the operations were armed fighters, but those civilians who were killed in the area had met their fate as a result of the bombardment of the villages by Birri groups. Reports confirm that some 200 Grad rockets fell on Jba' in the space of 1 day.

His eminence appealed to Amal Movement members, saying: It is impermissible that you should be deceived by Birri under any circumstances; you should oppose his orders and not support him.

Touching on ways of finding a solution, his eminence said: Actually, Hizballah is the only party making efforts in this regard. The other side is not even thinking of achieving a solution or ending the problem. He asked: If Birri truly wants to solve the problem, why did he not do so before [Amal leaders] Dawud, Faqih, and Sbayti were killed? Shaykh al-Tufayli noted that Birri tried to exploit these killings by resorting to evasion and procrastination and by trying to accuse us of the killings. He said that an agreement was reached with the Palestinians after the three killings. Actually we are not against this agreement. We ask here who killed them. We demand that the killers be handed over because it is Birri who killed them.

Shaykh al-Tufayli continued: Hizballah's condition for a solution rests in our demand that our fighters should be free to fight Israel. In conclusion, he addressed greetings to the Mujahidin, imploring God Almighty to preserve them from harm and end this blind sedition.

Reportage on Continued Amal-Hizballah Fighting

Clashes in South Resume

NC1001125089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The security situation has flared up again in Iqlim al-Tuffah, after a short period of guarded calm this morning. Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah at approximately 1115. According to the latest military situation reports from the South, the fighting is taking place on the outskirts of Jba', and in 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Al-Luwayzah woods. [passage omitted]

The Iqlim al-Tuffah-Al-Qurayyah-'Ayn al-Dulb road has been reopened to facilitate the transportation of the injured and those leaving the areas of tension.

The Popular Liberation Army—the forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd—have not yet been deployed in the areas agreed upon.

Over 100 Reported Dead

NC1001160889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text) All the direct contacts and attempts made by Damascus and Tehran to settle the situation between Amal and Hizballah have proved futile so far. Security reports from Iqlim al-Tuffah in the south say that clashes between the two sides are continuing, especially on the outskirts of 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jba', and Al-Luwayzah.

A responsible Amal source affirmed a short time ago that the movement has been making fierce attacks on Hizballah positions in the towns of 'Ayn Bu Siwar and Al-Luwayzah since this afternoon. He stated that the towns of Kafr Fila, Kafr Milki, Kafr Hatta, Al-Hassaniyah, and Jba' have come under the full control of the movement.

Meanwhile, a responsible source in Hizballah stressed that the Amal Movement's attack on Jba' had failed. He spoke of violent shelling of Jba' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar from Amal positions in Al-Musaylih, Zifta, and Al-Marwaniyah.

AFP cites security sources as saying that the number of dead in the Amal-Hizballah fighting since its renewal at the beginning of this year is close to 103, while the number of wounded is about 192.

In the meantime, a source in the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has disclosed to the Bayrut News Agency that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din had asked Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib to intervene militarily in Iqlim al-Tuffah to separate Amal and Hizballah so as to make it impossible for the Palestinian organizations to intervene, which in the long term could lead to the consolidation of the Palestinians' presence in Iqlim al-Tuffah and in turn lead to their settlement there. However, Brig Gen al-Khatib rejected the idea in order to avert sectarian repercussions, which could result in divisions within the Army brigades in West Beirut.

Al-Khatib asked for prior Syrian consent to any movement by the West Beirut brigades, particularly the Army personnel in Bahjat Ghanim Barracks in Sidon who have not yet officially joined his command. Al-Khatib has said the issue of his military personnel taking up security tasks is under consideration and contingent upon the men's capabilities. These capabilities, he added, are well known. Reinforcements in terms of manpower and military equipment are needed.

After meeting Amal Leader Nabih Birri this afternoon, Al-Khatib asserted that Birri supports any measure that would give the Army the task of security. He noted that this issue would be discussed later with Dr Salim al-Huss.

Amal Attacks 'Ayn Bu Siwar

NC1101063989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Following the relative abatement of the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah, strenuous efforts are being exerted to return the situation to normal. Meanwhile, the Amal Movement has declared that it has gained control of Jba' and that it is currently launching an offensive against 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

The Amal regular forces commander has maintained that the battle will not end until the Hizballah groups have been completely driven out of the South. He emphasized that the fighting is not confined to Jba' alone, but wil involve Al-Luwayzah and other areas in the South. The Amal commander reiterated the movement's determination not to back down on this decision.

AFP cited a security source in the South as saying that Hizballah has built fortifications in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Jabal Safi, and Al-Luwayzah in the wake of Amal's capture of Kafr Kila and Jba'.

Amal Receives Israeli Arms

NC1101101189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Fierce fighting, in which rockets and artillery are being used, is taking place along the Jba'-'Ayn Bu Siwar combat lines between Amal and Hizballah gunmen. Security sources said a large number of wounded persons had been taken to hospitals in Sidon. The Kafr Hatta-'Ayn al-Dulb-Harat Sayda road remains closed, except to ambulances.

In the meantime, Hizballah has accused the Amal Movement of dealing with Israel, noting that yesterday the movement received Israeli arms and ammunition that were unloaded at Al-Zahrani port.

Amal Takes '80 Percent of Jba'"

NC1101105489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Amal sources have reported that under cover of a heavy artillery barrage the movement's fighters succeeded today in forcing Hizballah to withdraw from the southeastern outskirts to Jba'. This is part of a decisive campaign to evict Hizballah from the south. According to these sources, Amal now controls 80 percent of the town. Hizballah gunmen are holding out in several fortified positions in the eastern part of the town; this gives them a link with 'Ayn Bu Siwar.

Hizballah Radio on Conflict, Higgins Kidnapping

NC1101101589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0655 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, divider of heaven and earth: There are those who have said they are against reconciliation by means of appeasement. To them we will today give an account of the ongoing fighting and feuds that have left scores of victims. The conspiracy is far from over. All this is because some did not accept the reconciliation that was proposed. They failed, however, to say what kind of reconciliation they had in mind. This brought all good offices to a halt and triggered a new cycle of war, smashing some of the remaining bones of the sect and the cause.

Reconciliation was desirable in the past, but nowadays it is commonly thought that whoever calls for reconciliation is weak, and unable to do the contrary; that is, wage war. Those who rejected the reconciliation between Amal and Hizballah simultaneously accepted reconciliation between 'Arafat and Birri. A reconciliation between 'Arafat and Birri is acceptable and permitted, because it is an American-sponsored process, whereas a similar reconciliation between Amal and Hizballah is not possible, as long as there exists a certain party that still refuses to go through this American-sponsored process.

This is one of the chapters that we have seen in the endless story. Those who rejected reconciliation by appeasement might have wanted such reconciliation to materialize only after new blood had been shed. They did not want reconciliation served on a silver platter; they sought to attain it through bloodshed and devastation. They took the view that so long as the feud is within members of the same sect, let there be bloodshed and let the bereaved mothers mourn indefinitely.

It is our impression that there are some people who want to turn the issue of reconciliation into the lie of the year, and perhaps of the years to come as well. There are never any promises of magical solutions, because God prohibited magic and fortunetelling, and has ordered us to take care of what we have in our hands and what is accessible. For now, what is accessible is bloodshed, in the suburb first, and if that fails, let the frustration be vented against the positions of the Islamic resistance in Jabal Safi. After all, the Shi'ites are in the best shape they have ever been in. They have reached the peak of political maturity and awareness of the requirements of their role and duties. It seems as if we want to cool down the rancor in our hearts by bloodbaths and by the cries of bereft mothers.

This is just part of the flow of utterances coming out of the leaders and ruling figures and institutions. They say the solution is in Tehran, when they want to hold it accountable for the problem, and they say it is a dispute within the Iranian leadership, when they want to hold it responsible for the ongoing fighting. It is as if they are perfect and immaculate saints, who do not extend their hands to the enemies of God and His prophet. Some of them get a blessing from the meat of the animals slaughtered as a sacrifice [during pilgrimage]; others enjoy the funds of U.S. charitable societies; and others say that postwar Iran wants to rearrange its relations. The problem is always seen as one of Shi'ite-Iranian relations. This is the conclusion and summary of what is happening in the view of those exceptional officials. Iran is rearranging its relations with numerous Arab and foreign countries. Why does it not submit to the wishes of the minister and apologize to him for its shortcomings toward him? The strangest thing is that it is said that the minister served in the Islamic revolution as one of its sons. We had not heard of such a thing before, either in the old or the new accounts. If you only have a little patience, you will hear the minister enumerate the favors he has done the Islamic revolution in the past and the present. He always appeals to the leader imam, and makes demands and requests of him. However, anyone who is like the minister is capable of uttering falsehoods.

God has made the minister a defender of Islam and the Shi'ites for many days and years, from the time he sat at the table of Israel's agent Bashir [al-Jumayyil], to the day he advocated the nation's rights at Lausanne and recounted all the sacrifices made by this nation, until he made the lakeside residents and participants in conferences on the quiet shores of the Western country of Switzerland weep by his enumerations and repetition. There in Switzerland the warriors took their vacation and respite. On that day Amin al-Jumayyil wept and gave the minister the national and sectarian rights he had requested. The latter went home with these rights in his bags. He then began distributing them to the nation, one by one, until no Shi'ite, Sunni, or Druze Muslim was left who had not received some favor from Birri.

Furthermore, Birri has been one of the pillars of the resistance which liberated most of the South. It was also he who sent an envoy to Sidon to substitute for him in receiving the conquering President Amin al-Jumayyil who entered the South to bless the victory, after he had been instrumental in bringing about the occupation.

We were extremists and we still are, and even terrorists. Were not Birri, Yitzhaq Shamir, and George Shultz unanimous in describing us as such? Then we were called renegades because we rejected all this Arab and international consensus to which the Amal statements refer. All our people know what the consensus was about. The consensus was that Israel should be a secure state within recognized borders and, consequently, discussion of a Palestinian state is possible in future. This is the consensus which Birri and his henchmen acuse us of having reneged on. It is a consensus which wants all Muslims to be instruments serving U.S. schemes and Western policies.

We have distorted Shi'ite policy and history by fighting Israel, destroying the headquarters of the U.S. Marines, and arresting a U.S. spy with the rank of colonel. Perhaps a day will come when 'Ali ibn Abu Talib [fourth Islamic caliph], may the peace of God be upon him, will ask us why we fought the poor Zionists. Why did you kidnap Higgins, the gentle lamb? And why did you blow up the mosques and temples of the Marines who came to supplicate God to preserve the Muslim lands and the sons of Islam? He might even demand of us: Why did you disobey your patron Nabih? Have I not told you that he is the person whom I have invested with authority over you?

God forbid, we seek refuge in God, and we beg forgiveness of God that the companion of wine, consort of debauched unveiled women, the man with the shaved beard, the partner of Bashir and Amin, and the renouncer of prayer and fasting, should be an authority of God [hujjatan li allah] or an authority for the prophet's family.

However, O countrymen, our brothers in religion, and our partners in destiny, enough of being dragged behind the curse of the archsatan. Do you not know that the minister has become the curse with which the archsatan has threatened us because we ruined the temple of his hostile, infernal, and satanic policy? Enough of being dragged and deceived, enough of closing the eyes and the ears, enough covering up for that dissolute individual who defies the sanctities of God and the Muslims, and disregards God's prohibitions.

Iran's Besharati Meets With President al-Asad

JN1001124189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mohammad Ali Besharati, assistant foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his accompanying delegation, at 1200 today.

Iranian ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari attended the meeting.

Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD1001213289 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Damascus, Jan. 10, IRNA—'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Iran's first deputy foreign minister presented President 'Ali Khamene'i's message to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad here today.

President al-Asad, stressing that nothing can mar Tehran-Damascus friendly relations, expressed concern on the escalation of Amal-Hizballah clashes in Lebanon and reiterated Iran and Syria's joint efforts for ending them.

President Khamene'i's message also underlined Iran-Syria cooperation for a speedy halt of these clashes.

Terming bilateral relations as "desirable" Hoj. Khamene'i emphasized the need to face any compromising move.

Besharati arrived here Monday to follow up the two countries' efforts to resolve the internecine quarrel in Lebanon.

Sees Lebanese Hizballah Members

LD1001213889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] AFP reports that Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati has met with 'Abbas and Husayn Musavi, two members of the Lebanese Hizballah, in the Iranian Embassy in Damascus. In those meetings talks were held on the clashes between the Hizballah and Amal movements.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Paris Conference

JN0601140589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus this morning for Paris to head the Syrian delegation to the international conference on banning the use of chemical weapons. The conference is scheduled to begin its proceedings tomorrow in the French capital with the participation of 140 countries on the foreign ministers level.

Commentary on Attempts To 'Exploit' Paris Talks

JN0601160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: An international conference on banning chemical weapons will open in Paris tomorrow with the participation of 140 countries on the foreign ministers' level.

French President Francois Mitterrand earlier called for this conference, and his call received a broad, favorable international response, especially from the peace-loving countries, which are eager to curb all forms of the arms race, including chemical weapons.

There is no doubt that many participating countries are heading toward this conference with goodwill to help develop resolutions that will contribute toward fending off the dangers posed by chemical weapons in the hope that such a step will be a driving force to help end the arms race, not only in terms of chemical weapons but nuclear arms as well.

The motive behind the major powers' adoption of the call for this conference was their conviction of the possibility that chemical weapons will proliferate among and be produced by small countries, especially if we consider the fact that chemical weapons are described as the poor nations' nuclear weapons. This conviction has emanated from the fact that some poor nations, which sometimes find themselves threatened or endangered, might think of confronting the danger or threat with weapons of this sort, because their production does not entail heavy costs or high technology.

It is certain that the proliferation of this kind of weapons poses future grave dangers to mankind and that these dangers must be reckoned with beforehand. If goodwill is displayed by some participating countries, especially the big ones, the Paris conference might be a step toward curbing the proliferation and production of chemical weapons.

However, anyone who follows the fabricated U.S. campaign against the alleged Libyan chemical weapons plant and the preparations accompanying it and realizes that it coincides with the date for the Paris conference will note the ill intentions and attempts to make the resolutions of this conference serve hostile U.S. designs against the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Anyone who reads the statements issued by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz before his arrival in Paris can almost conclude that the conference will be especially convened to discuss the issue of the Libyan plant. This means that the U.S. Administration is seeking beforehand to deflect the conference from its original course and purpose to exploit its results in carrying out malicious designs against the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Despite affirmations by Libya and by more than one of the Arab and international sources who have visited the Libyan plant that the claim that it is built to produce chemical weapons is false and that it is a merely an ordinary pharmaceutical plant, Washington, Tel Aviv, and lately London are continuing to stick to this claim. This harmony among the troika—Washington, Tel Aviv, and London—on the plant issue shows that these parties do not want to see the Paris conference adopt resolutions serving the original purpose for convening it: namely, protecting mankind from the dangers posed by the proliferation of chemical weapons. They are seeking to use it to launch a media campaign against Libya in particular and Arab states in general.

The dangers posed by chemical and nuclear weapons, the ill effects of the latter incomparably surpassing those of the former, constitute a direct threat to the international community and to mankind in general. Thus, they deserve the exertion of all efforts to prevent their proliferation and expanded production. If the Paris conference is devoted to debating the first danger, it does not mean that this debate should prevent the devotion of greater international attention to the dangers posed by nuclear arms.

If Washington is dealing with the danger posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons selectively—overlooking the issue when Israel is the country possessing and producing these weapons—and if London blinds itself to the danger posed by the Israeli nuclear danger in the Middle East, although it has been exposed by the Israeli nuclear expert Vanunu in London—who was kidnapped under the noses of the British authorities at the hands of the Israeli Mosad—the international community, 140 members of which will meet in Paris tomorrow, cannot allow the debate on the dangers of chemical weapons to turn into a screen for the hostile designs of the major powers against another state.

They cannot also allow this conference to turn into a cover for the dangers posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons, especially when this proliferation involves states whose intransigence and indifference to world security and peace have been experienced by the international community.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'U.S. Aggression' on Libya

JN0601094489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Jan 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's newspaper comments deal with the dimensions and objectives of the U.S. aggression against Libya as well as the Israeli military concentrations in the occupied part of southern Lebanon.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Washington's current beating of war drums against Libya on the pretext of the existence of a chemical weapons plant there is only a new indication of Washington's real trends and ambitions in the Third World in general, and the Arab homeland in particular. Libya remains a major obstacle to U.S. ambitions in the region. It is a progressive nationalist state that refuses to ride the Washington bandwagon and to succumb to U.S. plans.

The paper adds: This explains U.S. persistance in intensifying its hostility against Libya and its leader and to seize every opportunity to overthrow the revolutionary Libyan regime, whether through direct military intervention or by financing plots against it.

It is not strange for the U.S. aggression to take place at a time when the world is at the peak of what is termed international detente, when there is widespread hope to reinforce security and peace in the world and to eliminate the hotbeds of tension and the many complicated international problems.

The United States cannot but be on the side of aggression, expansion, explosion of hotbeds of tension, and hostility to the issues of progress and liberation in the world. Proof of this is its continued escalated support for Israel and its aggression against the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The new aggression against Libya is new proof of the true U.S. attitude toward the Arabs. It is a clear message about Washington's determination to continue its hostility to the Arabs and their issues.

Afghanistan

Kabul 'Hardliners' Reject Compromise With Rebels

BK1001131789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1305 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 10 (AFP)—Hardline members of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the Army have rejected any compromise with the Afghan resistance and are preparing to fight on, diplomats here said Tuesday.

Hardline Afghan Army officers and members of the Communist PDPA also plan to oppose the government of President Najibullah over important concessions they believe it intends to make to the rebels, or mujahidin, they said.

A petition calling on Mr. Najibullah to fight has been circulating among Army officers over the rank of major, the diplomats said. Citing an Afghan source, they said 700 officers had already signed the petition.

The hardliners have rejected a conciliatory proposal advanced by advisors to Mr. Najibullah to dissolve the PDPA and replace it with a liberal, nationalist and democratic party.

The new party would also include "good Moslems" acceptable to the rebels.

The proposal for the creation of the new party is similar to a United Nations plan for a peaceful solution to the nine-year-old Afghan conflict, informed sources said.

Chief Soviet negotiator for Afghanistan Yuliy Vorontsov, who is also Moscow's ambassador to Kabul, has insisted that the PDPA be represented in a traditional council set up to choose an interim government.

Mr. Vorontsov's insistence on PDPA involvement was blamed by the mujahidin for their decision Monday not to hold further talks with Moscow, only two days after a resistance delegation met the Soviet official in Islamabad.

Mr. Najibullah in a radio and television broadcast Monday accused the mujahidin of wanting to retain absolute power for themselves, the official Afghan news agency BAKHTAR reported Tuesday.

The Afghan president added that unless the Kabul government was allowed "reasonable participation" there could be no solution, BAKHTAR said in a report monitored here.

Meanwhile, mujahidin guerrillas captured the town of Gowshtah as well as several security posts around the town of Kama [placename as received] after fierce fighting Monday night, resistance sources in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan, said Tuesday.

The two towns are situated 20 kilometres and 30 kilometres (12 and 18 miles) east of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province in northeast Afghanistan.

For the last two weeks the mujahidin have been closing in on strategically important Jalalabad, 120 kilometres (74 miles) from Kabul, and have all but surrounded it except for the main road linking it to the capital.

Afghan troops fired 14 medium-range Scud missiles at mujahidin positions last week, while military leaders have continued to reinforce Kabul with the objective of turning it into a fortress, diplomatic sources here said.

Five thousand Vietnamese-trained commandos have been sent to the capital, the sources said. They said the commandos had been trained by Vietnamese instructors but did not say where the training had taken place.

Also the salaries of the recently-formed 10,000-strong elite guards unit have been substantially raised.

Since the begining of the month large numbers of Soviet transport planes have been carrying out evacuations from the town, probably of medical personnel, diplomats said.

AFP on UN Plans for 'Moderate Government'

BK1101104489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 11 Jan 89

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 11 (AFP)—The United Nations is trying to produce a moderate Afghan government acceptable to both sides following the failure of talks between the resistance alliance and Soviet officials, diplomats here said.

The U.N. plan envisages a government which would include "good Moslems," following the collapse of talks between the rebel mujahidin and Soviet officials.

Those negotiations on a coalition government were declared ended by the mujahidin after the Soviet Union reiterated Saturday that any future government must include representatives of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA)—a demand the resistance refuses to accept.

The Soviet Union has pledged, under the Geneva accords of April 14, to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by February 15, and the establishment of a broad-based government after that date has become a pressing issue.

The U.N. is looking for a more flexible solution than that proposed by Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Kabul Yuliy Vorontsov, a source close to the U.N. negotiators said.

Observers in Kabul said Afghan President Najibullah, who last year made several moderates and non-ruling party members members of his cabinet, is considering setting up a liberal, democratic and nationalist party to replace the Communist PDPA. The new party would be free of Marxist or Socialist dogma.

The idea is supported by the United Nations, which has advised Mr. Najibullah to replace the PDPA with a "third force" including "good Moslems" with social democratic convictions and acceptable to the mujahidin, the source said.

But Sebghatullah Mujadeddi, leader of the seven party resistance alliance and of its delegation in talks last week with Mr. Vorontsov, stressed Monday that acceptable "good Moslems" working in Kabul should never have belonged to the PDPA or shown "anti-Islamic sentiments" to be included in a coalition government.

Names of "good" Afghan Moslems living in Kabul and overseas are being bandied around and include the former king, Zahir Shah, who now lives in Rome, but Mr. Mujadeddi said that he had not given any names to the Soviet negotiators.

Afghan Minister for Rural Development Asif Zahir told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE recently that he believed "Zahir Shah is an honourable man," and added that he personally was ready to serve under a coalition government.

Mr. Zahir, who is not a PDPA member, said that he had good relations with moderate mujahidin leader Sayyed Pir Gaylani, a predecessor of Mr. Mujadeddi as rotating head of the Pakistan-based resistance alliance. He also said he had expected good things to come from the leadership of Burhanuddin Rabbani, Mr. Mujadeddi's immediate predecessor as alliance head, who leads the moderate fundamentalist Jamiyat group.

Observers noted that most of the "good Moslems" in Kabul had good relations with moderate factions in the resistance alliance.

Mr. Najibullah's deputy minister for education, 'Abdul Mobarez, who described himself as a centrist, said he was "ready to continue serving a coalition government that could be supported by a majority of the population" and added that all Afghans were tired of the nine-year war.

Observers in Kabul said that negotiations on a future set up in Afghanistan had not been easy for U.N. Special Envoy Benan Sevan, who has spent much time shuttling between Kabul and Islamabad.

They said that hardline members of the Communist Party, who face jail or exile under a mujahidin government, reckon the Afghan Army is strong enough to hold off the resistance.

"We have 250,000 members... We can also resort to guerrilla warfare," said one party official interviewed recently in Kabul.

Mr. Najibullah, meanwhile, is weighing up his options—continued military resistance or negotiations that would entail loss of influence for the PDPA. However he has given the go ahead for a commission to study replacement of the PDPA.

Commentary on 'Deadlock' Among Mujahidin Groups
LD0701073289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 4 Jan 89

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 6, BAKHTAR—Leaders of the "seven alliance" who claimed that they achieved victory in Al-Ta'if talks, but it seems at present that they have found the way unpaved and are desperate about the successes. [sentence as received]

The status of the seven and the eight alliances and their approach to the fundamental issues give a picture of [word indistinct] and division which can be only called deadlock. Such anarchism and [words indistinct] the work of opposition is a legal result of deep, severe and objective differences among these groups the roots of which can be sought in the bloody fightings in the past decade.

Bloody clashes between Gulbuddin and Rabbani groups as well as deepening of the differences between the moderate and the fundamentalists in the "seven alliance" are the clear examples of day-by-day increasing opposition among them.

Gulbuddin and Rabbani reject participation of the former Afghan king in a so-called "transitional government." Mujadad and Gaylani and Mawlawi M. Nabi decisively support the former king and regard him as the only respectful person. But Saya says that if the king wants to return to Afghan [as received], he will endanger his life.

The "eight alliance" never rely on the "seven alliance" considering the ideological differences between Sunnis and Shi'ites.

One of the high-ranking officials of the opposition clearly says: "Even we do not agree on the meeting with the Soviets which is a very fundamental issue, what about the formation of a government after the return of the Soviet forces."

Likewise, another opponent says: "We are unable to overthrow the Kabul regime. I do not want to fight against my people. Why should we destroy the cities."

Although the opposition as a result of the U.S. and Pakistani pressure has quickly announced the so-called "interim council" without the participation of the eight alliance, the deep differences and lack of a single political

and military program as well as their division in connection to the participation of the former king in the transitional government will go empty handed to Islamabad.

Foreign Ministry Summons Pakistan Charge

LD1001175789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Information Department reports that the Pakistani Embassy's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1615 today. A strong protest by the Republic of Afghanistan's government was conveyed to him concerning the recent aggression by Pakistan's Air Force helicopters and a convoy of armed motorized vehicles on Afghanistan's territory. The protest was conveyed to him by the acting director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' First Political Directorate.

The protest note states that on 9 January at 1040, two Pakistani helicopters, violating Afghanistan's territory disembarked a number of extremist group leaders, foreign advisers and high-ranking Pakistani officers. Their purpose was to intensify subversive activity aroung Ghazi Abad farm, in Mohmand Dara District of Nangarhar Province. They then returned to Pakistan.

In addition, on Monday, 9 January at 1030, a Pakistani Armed Forces motorized convoy penetrated the same region in order to assist and supply the extremist armed groups in the Republic of Afghanistan. The convoy was discovered and crushed by the Afghanistan's Armed Forces.

The note demands that Pakistan's Government refrains from repeating such actions, which are blatant violations of Afghanistan's territorial integrity and violations of the Geneva accords and accepted international norms. These actions can have no result other than to aggravate relations between the two countries. And the Pakistani authorities will be responsible for the grave consequences of such actions.

According to another report, the aggression by the Pakistani helicopters and convoy of motorized armed vehicles on Afghanistan's territory was conveyed to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan in Note No 179 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liaison Department. The UN mission was requested to assess as soon as possible these irresponsible actions by Pakistan's military authorities—actions which openly violate the Geneva accords.

Mujahidin Capture Nangarhar District Capitals

BK1001134789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1332 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan 10 (AFP)—Resistance guerrillas have captured two district capitals in the eastern Afghanistan province of Nangarhar and are advancing on the provincial capital, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS said Tuesday.

Mujahidin guerrillas on Monday captured Gowshtah, some 30 kilometres (18 miles) east of Jalalabad, the pro-resistance news agency said here.

Afghan rebels had also captured the Army Headquarters and other important posts in Kama [placename as received], another district capital located 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Jalalabad, it said, adding that a small area of the district was still in Army hands.

The news agency said the mujahidin were advancing on Jalalabad, Nangarhar provincial capital. The key garrison town lies on the important road linking Kabul to the border with Pakistan.

Mujahidin guerrillas had launched fresh attacks Tuesday on an Army battalion on the outskirts of Gowshtah killing an Army commander, Faridun, destroying two tanks and capturing some posts, the news agency said.

They killed 42 Afghan troops and captured others in the area Monday, it said adding that the rebels had seized seven tanks and a large quantity of ammunition.

In nearby Samar Kheyl District resistance guerrillas downed an Afghan Air Force jet Monday with a U.S.-made Stinger missile.

Mujahidin Take Control of Konarha Province

BK1001154789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, Konarha Province is now under the effective control of the mujahidin. Konarha Province was vacated by the Soviet troops 6 months ago and the last Kabul regime troops had to flee the province because of repeated attacks by the mujahidin who later took the entire province under their total control. The remaining Soviet troops are positioned around Kabul and in other cities of Afghanistan, while the mujahidin have driven the Kabul regime soldiers out of Paktia Province as well.

According to reports, fierce clashes have taken place between the mujahidin and the Kabul troops in Takhteh Pol, (Tor Kotal), and Qandahar airport areas in which about 40 Kabul soldiers were killed and 10 wounded. An armored personnel carrier was destroyed and the airport runway was partially damaged. The mujahidin have also conducted operations in and around the city of Qandahar and killed 26 Kabul soldiers, besides destroying 2 posts, 1 tank, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In a 3-day battle in Baghlan Province, the mujahidin also captured seven military outposts between Shahr-e Now and Shahr-e Qadim.

Rocket Attack on Konduz Airpor
rt Destroys Plane
BK1101113089 Islamabad Domestic
1100 GMT 11 Jan 89 *c Service in English*

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin a
carried out more successful operationre reported to have
regime troops in various parts of the ons against the Kabul
says they launched a rocket attack e country. One report
completely destroying a Kabul plane on Konduz airport,
take off after delivering military supe which was about to
The mujahidin in a rocket attack on pplies at the airport.
Balkh Province destroyed a security the headquarters of
fierce fighting is going on between ty post. Meanwhile,
Kabul regime troops at several place mujahidin and the
inces along the Soviet border. es in northern prov-

'Criminal Extremists' Bomb Her
at 9 Jan
LD1101000589 Kabul Domestic Serv
1530 GMT 10 Jan 89 *vice in Pashto*

[Text] The criminal extremists, supp
States and Pakistan, clearly revealed orted by the United
people's peace and security by expl their hostility to the
night in the city of Herat. oloding a bomb last

BAKHTAR's military section report
extremists planted a quantity of ets that the criminal
Ghulam Hasan market in Ward 2 of explosives in Haji
one compatriot was martyred and se the city. As a result
injured. One apartment and 27 storeseven were seriously
and 20 houses were damaged. The mores were destroyed,
explosion amount to 20 million afghnaterial losses of this
hanis.

Over 12,000 Joined Armed Force
es in 9 Months
LD1101071589 Kabul BAKHTAR in E
11 Jan 89 *English 0421 GMT*

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 10, BAKHTAR—A
members of the People's Democratic About 2300 youths,
stan (PDPA), from 7, 8 and 9 Precinc ic Party of Afghani-
party organizations have voluntarily jcts of the Kabul city
of the detachments of special guards joined to the ranks
s recently.

A BAKHTAR military correspond
approximately 5000 youths from the dent reported that,
joined the ranks of the above menti said precincts have
during the past nine months. tioned detachments

It is to be said here that, during the
women have also voluntarily joine same period, 1540
Armed Forces stationed in their reh the government
defence of peace and realization of related areas for the
tion policy. national reconcilia-

Furthermore, over 12,000 youths hav
the ranks of the Armed Forces durin ve voluntary joined
ng the same period.

Hatif To Head Food Distribution Commission
LD1101093189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Presidential Press Office has reported to BAKHTAR that on the instructions of Esteemed President Najibullah, an authoritative commission has been set up under the chairmanship of Vice President 'Abdurrahim Hatif, to better coordinate the transportation and distribution of foodstuffs and the campaign against hoarding and economic sabotage. Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq serves as deputy chairman, and Vice Presidents General Rafi' and Mr 'Abdul Wahed Sorabi; and Mr Niaz Muhammad Mohmand, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, have been appointed members of the commission.

According to a separate report, the commission held its first session this afternoon. It was decided that the commission should meet every day in order to effectively coordinate the transporation and distribution of foodstuffs to the citizens of Kabul, as well as the prevention of hoarding.

On a related issue and in line with Esteemed President Najibullah's instructions, today's Council of Ministers session commissioned Deputy Prime Minister Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, the ministers of defense, internal affairs, state security, commerce, light industry, and foodstuffs, as well as the Kabul Province governor and Kabul city mayor to create a special mechanism to control the distribution of widely needed goods, particularly wheat, ghee, and sugar.

On a related issue, the council appointed a commission to draft immediately an amendment to the law on the prevention of hoarding and to forward this amendment to the Council of Ministers' Secretariat.

Decisions on a number of other issues also were made at today's Council of Ministers session.

Bangladesh

Anti-Fundamentalist Groups Continue Strike
BK1001152589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Jan 10 (AFP)—A bomb blast fatally wounded a 14-year-old boy here Tuesday during a general strike marked by clashes between supporters of rival political groups, police said.

Uttam Kumar Sen died on his way to hospital after being fatally wounded by a home made bomb as he was crossing a road in the New Market District of this southeastern Bangladesh city, police said.

Police said rival groups nearby were throwing stones and home made bombs at each other during an eight-hour strike called by anti-fundamentalist political groups to protest a three-day religious conference that opened here Monday.

They said many people were injured during the clashes and added that trouble-makers had been detained for questioning. They did not give figures.

Eyewitnesses said that the rival groups held small rallies and paraded through the streets of Chittagong and added that some 200 to 300 armed police guarded the venue of the conference which was due to reopen later Tuesday.

Earlier, police were out in force in Chittagong as the general strike entered its second straight day.

The strike, the fourth in the past week, was called to protest the three-day Islamic religious conference that opened Monday under tight police security. [passage omitted]

India

Natwar Singh, PRC's Qian Qichen Meet in Paris

BK1101031589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, and the Chinese foreign minister, Mr Qian Qichen, had discussions in Paris last night on the modalities of the working group and ministerial level meetings between the two countries agreed upon during the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, recent visit to Beijing. Mr Natwar Singh and Qian are attending the international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Mr Qian expressed the view that Mr Gandhi's visit was viewed positively both in China and internationally. They agreed that the visit had produced satisfactory results at both sides and would pave the way for better relations. Mr Qian also appreciated the agreements reached between India and Pakistan recently.

On Kampuchea, the two ministers expressed satisfaction over the improved situation in the country.

Paper Hails Success of Gandhi's PRC Visit

BK1001133989 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 24 Dec 88 p 13

[Editorial: "A Successful Visit"]

[Text] It is a momentous event when the world's two most populous countries containing more than a third of humanity consciously decide to leave three decades of strained relations behind them to begin anew. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China is historic not because of the accords signed for cooperation in the fields of culture, science and technology and civil aviation. It is so because the two Asian giants have realised the need to clear the cobwebs of the past, and restructure their ties in a rapidly changing world that spares little concern for national rigidities.

A heartening aspect of the Rajiv visit is that it has not ended with just soothing rhetoric, but has yielded a mechanism for the two countries to address themselves to the most contentious issue between them, the border dispute. The proposed joint working group on the boundary question will be asked to make concrete recommendations within a time-frame of two to three years for an overall solution. Till the composition of the group and its terms of reference are known, it would be pointless to anticipate the degree of its success.

It may be argued that since the two countries have exchanged an enormous mass of data and evidence in support of their respective position in official communications and at the eight rounds of border talks the working group may not find it possible to shed new light on the matter. While it may be true to an extent, a lot will really depend on the approach of the leadership in China and India. The warmth that was evident in Mr Gandhi's meetings with Mr Deng Xiaoping, Mr Zhao Ziyang and Mr Li Peng encourages the thought that the group will have enough political backing to make an earnest endeavour for a solution.

Predictably, India and China will advance more quickly on the spheres of cultural, scientific and technological exchanges than over the boundary issue. Were this to come true, the two governments would prove that, as had been commended by many well-wishers in the past, the two countries could develop their relations significantly without hinging such a process on a boundary solution.

The desire for better relations is evidence of mutual confidence. India's forthright position on the Tibet question, no doubt, has generated goodwill in Beijing. Similar assurances by China about refraining from support to insurgents in India's north-east will be welcome . But one would expect something more from China for full reciprocity of goodwill—a gesture, diplomatic if not public, that it does not believe in furthering divisions in South Asia.

The success of Mr Gandhi's China visit will be a sour pill for his detractors in India to swallow. It must have been embarrassing for them to note that the Prime Minister has succeeded in opening a new chapter in India-China relations in full cooperation with Beijing and without surrendering any ground. The hallmark of Mr Gandhi's achievement is that he has partnered Mr Deng and his colleagues to revive Pancasila, the gospel that India and China jointly evolved in the 1950's to serve as a guiding principle for the developing nations. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit has certainly advanced national interest.

Maltese Premier, Gandhi Discuss Cooperation

BK1001160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] India and Malta are to expand the bilateral cooperation in economic, commercial, and scientific fields. A high-level Indian delegation will visit Malta shortly to explore specific areas. This was decided during extensive discussions between the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the visiting prime minister of Malta, Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, in New Delhi.

Speaking to newsmen, Dr Fenech Adami said that a Maltese delegation would also come to India for detailed discussions, particularly on cooperation in the shipbuilding industry. He said since Malta would be applying for full membership in the European Community, it would help Indian exporters to use the free port of Malta to enter the European market. He said the Indian side conveyed its willingness to encourage Indian participation in joint ventures.

Dr Eddie Fenech Adami left New Delhi for Agra this evening after a 2-day stay in the capital. He was given a warm send off at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] among others by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. [sentence as heard] Dr Fenech Adami will visit Hyderabad before leaving for home from Bombay on the 13th of this month.

Gandhi Briefed on Sri Lankan Tamil Aspirations

BK1001160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The prime minister has instructed that further steps should be taken to fulfill the aspirations of Sri Lankan Tamils regarding devolution and decentralization within the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has also called for steps to strengthen and expand relations with the new government in Sri Lanka on the basis of mutual trust, cooperation, and reciprocity. He said these steps are necessary, as the main elements of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement are in an advanced stage of implementation.

The prime minister's instructions came after the Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on him in New Delhi today and apprised him in detail of the political developments and prospects in Sri Lanka.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr Gandhi was also informed that the TULF, EPRLF, TELO, and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] are fighting the forthcoming parliamentary elections unitedly, putting up Tamil candidates. Mr Dixit also briefed the prime minister about the views of other Tamil groups like the EROS and LTTE. Some elements of these groups have indicated their willingness to join the political process.

Opposition Launches Campaign To Mobilize Opinion

BK1101085389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Seven opposition parties have formed a national campaign committee to mobilize public opinion for national unity and highlight basic issues concerning the masses. At a joint press conference, leaders of the CPI-M, the CPI, the Forward Bloc, the RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], the Lok Dal, the Congress-S, and the Jan Morcha said they will launch a 15-point campaign which includes the fight against divisive forces, corruption in high places, black money, and the price rise. They said they will also lay emphasis on the foreign policy based on peace, nonalignment, and anti-imperialism.

They criticized the government for what they called its lack of direction and failure to meet the challenges confronting the nation. They also criticized the BJP and said it is following disruptive politics.

Replying to questions, the opposition leaders clarified that what they are planning to launch today is not a political front.

EXPRESS Hails Outcome of SAARC Summit

BK1001092889 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 3 Jan 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Several Steps Ahead"]

[Text] In sharp contrast to last year's summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) at Kathmandu, which was marked by bitter controversy on the issues of terrorism and Afghanistan's entry into the organisation, this year's summit at Islamabad was marked by amity and the spirit of mutual accommodation. Nothing perhaps was more symbolic of the new mood than the call in the Islamabad Declaration, adopted at the end of the summit, to the member nations to implement the convention on terrorism which the SAARC had adopted in August last year. The dramatic change reflects realities on the ground.

The end of the insurgency in Tripura following a settlement between the Government of India and the Tribal National Volunteers (TNV), which had its headquarters in the Chittagong Hills Tract district of Bangladesh, and the tapering off of the Chakma insurgency in Chittagong in Bangladesh have obviously contributed greatly to the easing of tensions between New Delhi and Dhaka. Similarly, India's action against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which it had earlier been accused of aiding, and the threat posed to the Sri Lanka Government by the Janata Vimukti Perumana (JVP), have obviously brought Colombo and New Delhi closer on the issue of terrorism. Just as helpful have been Ms Benazir Bhutto's unambiguous declarations that she would not play the "Sikh card" and that "the days of the extremists are over" as well as the ethnic conflict in Pakistan.

Each member country has now to enact enabling legislation to implement the SAARC convention on terrorism. This should be done as soon as possible because the present mood, welcome as it is, should not be taken for granted. The SAARC ministerial council's acceptance of the standing committee's recommendation that all new admissions have to be unanimous, has no doubt helped to resolve the question of Afghanistan's entry. But the unresolved bilateral issues between members can lead to a return of acrimony unless care is taken. Clearly, the way to greater friendship lies through mutual co-operation. Mutual help in combating narcotics smuggling, which the summit has resolved to stamp out, will reinforce mutual confidence.

The proposal for the establishment of a regional body to foster cultural links between member countries, which the standing committee has been asked to examine, will help to strengthen ties, as will co-operation in the field of education. Joint efforts in the economic sphere will also be of crucial importance and the summit has taken a significant step by asking the secretary-general to convene a special meeting to identify areas of trade, manufacture and services where co-operation may be possible immediately.

Economic co-operation can contribute not only to raising the standards of living of the member countries but to creating a commonalty of interests around which a distinct SAARC identity grows. The latter, as well as growing economic strength through co-operation, may enable the SAARC to become something like the European Community and acquire the kind of economic and political clout the latter enjoys. It will of course take a long time for this to happen. But that things are moving in the right direction is clear from the decision to issue SAARC passports, initially to Members of Parliament or equivalent, and Supreme Court judges of the member countries, and later to other categories.

Such promising beginnings, however, need careful nurturing. India, which accounts for three-quarters of the population as well as of the Gross Domestic Product, 79 percent of the value added in manufacture, about three-quarters of the foreign trade of the SAARC region, has a crucial role to play in this regard. But while it has the potential to be the anchor of the organisation, any action on its part which suggests that it seeks to dominate its neighbours, will be disastrous. It must therefore conduct itself with sensitivity and wisdom.

Iran

Soviet Foreign Minister To Visit Tehran

LD1001181389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] In his meeting with the Soviet foreign minister last night, Foreign Minister Velayati welcomed the USSR's proposal on the eradication of chemical weapons in the world. He said: As the principal victims of chemical weapons, we support your proposal more than anybody else.

Referring to the obstructionism of the Iraqi regime in peace talks and Resolution 598 he said: By refusing to withdraw to international borders the Iraqi regime has brought about a great deal of difficulties in implementing this resolution.

At that meeting Shevardnadze referred to his forthcoming visit to Tehran. The Soviet foreign minister said: The grounds for expanding bilateral relations have now been created. The message by the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a starting point for great development.

He also thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to solve the Afghanistan problem. He said: The recent talks between the Soviet Union and the Afghan mujahidin on the future of Afghanistan were useful and constructive. We hope these contacts will continue.

Then Mr Velayati said: We are interested in the fate of our neighbor Afghanistan because we have many things in common with the Afghan nation and already some 2 million Afghan refugees live in our country.

Khomeyni Seeks Soviet Help in Treaty With Iraq

TA1001184889 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with the French paper LIBERATION, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic regime's foreign minister, disclosed that Ruhollah Khomeyni's message to Mikhail Gorbachev consisted of two parts. The main part concerned Iranian-Soviet relations. Velayati neither revealed what proposal Ruhollah Khomeyni made to the Soviet Union nor whether he gave promises of any concessions to the Soviets.

However, one thing is certain, namely, that Ruhollah Khomeyni asked the Soviet Union to use its influence to induce Iraq to sign a peace treaty with Iran. The Soviets' answer to Khomeyni's request, however, was explicit and clear. They said that they support Security Council Resolution 598. Khomeyni's envoys thus returned to Tehran empty-handed.

Aqazadeh, Khomeyni Praise Oil Industry Workers

LD1001143589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Mr Aqazadeh, the oil minister, submitted a report to Imam Khomeyni. In that report he described the efforts and tireless resistance of the honest employees of the Oil Ministry during the course of the imposed war, and described the success achieved by these selfless oil industry workers. He further sought his excellency the imam's guidelines and advice pertaining to the continuation of that industry's performance.

The oil minister, in his report, pointed out that despite the enemy carrying out hundreds of attacks on oil installations and oil tankers, it could not witness even one moment of stoppage in the turning of the industry's

wheels. Further, the world-devourer United States—to smash the existing resolve—repeatedly resorted to direct intervention and raids on Iranian offshore oil installations. He added that following years of endurance of attacks and damages, now in the period of cease-fire and stoppage in the war, the capacity for production, transport, and refinery aspects of the country—on the basis of projections made in the budget program, quota ceilings, production, and demand in the international market—are currently enjoying a momentum.

The selfless employees of the oil industry, through reliance on their self-confidence and experience, are engaged in reconstruction of installations which were left redundant due to their proximity to the enemy's firepower. Currently, utilization of Bid-Boland refinery and the liquid gas unit in Mah-Shahr, and carrying out work on the first phase of reconstructing the gigantic Abadan refinery, and the Razi petrochemical complex, are some of the pieces of good news received every day concerning the reconstruction efforts.

The oil minister, in his report, mentioned this point that the expansion of exploration operations throughout the country, from north to south, have produced desirable results, and that the supply of energy for the future generations is being secured. He announced that extensive investment in petrochemical and refinery industries, which have passed the elementary stages, has created this hope that, God willing, by the year 1370 [March 1991 to March 1992] we may be able to save the bulk of the country's foreign expeditures, which give added value to petrochemical and petroleum products. [sentence as heard]. Furthermore, by then we will be able to carry out some exports in certain sections.

In conclusion, the oil minister announced that while before the victory of the revolution, only ten cities in the country were connected to the gas network and there had only been 50,000 subscriptions for gas, today we have 75,000 subscriptions for natural gas and we will take steps to connect 117 cities to the national gas network.

In reply to the oil minister's report the great leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, in an important message, paid tribute to employees of the oil industry and all the individuals in the country's industries, factories, and mines for their efforts and self-sacrifice. The text of the imam of the ummah's message is as follows:.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The great and noble people of Iran, in the course of the struggle and revolution victory and also since the beginning of the war, have witnessed the sincerity, endeavor, and hard work of the dear workers and esteemed responsible officials of the industries and factories, particularly the dear employees of the oil company and industry. They indeed offered the most valuable services to the revolution and the Islamic homeland under the most sensitive circumstances. The value of their struggle against the satanic regime of the shah, when they went on strike and turned off taps and stopped the flow of oil to aliens who delivered a decisive blow on them, will not be forgotten.

However, more significantly, in the course of the imposed war, despite the possibility of many dangers and repeated bombings of the industrial and oil centers, the responsible officials and committed and sympathetic workers of the revolution, by relying on their faith in Almighty God and through their self-confidence, showed no weakness. With firm resolve they safeguarded the revolution's prestige and brought honor and pride to Islam and Iran. Under the most difficult conditions and moments, they maintained the oil production and exports at the highest required level.

Moreover, in addition to repairing the damaged installations in the depths of the waters and the heart of the seas and on flat land and high mountains, they continued the expansion of this important industry and oil exploration. This is amazing to many observers, for, in the climax of the enemies' relentless attacks, this country's oil production and export did not stop for even a single day. This is owed to nothing but God's mercy and kind attention of the Remnant of God [the hidden Shi'ite imam], may our soils be sacrificed for him, and the love in the heart of these dear ones—the same as the love demonstrated by the basijis in the holy defense.

I have seen many instances of efforts and selflessness of this by artists in the reports and [television] pictures. I am certain that had it not been for the love of God and the ideology, they would have never risked working in oil centers, factories, and refineries, which were beset with countless dangers and full of inflammable materials. Praise be upon you the workers, the shop stewards and the researchers, who welcomed the wordly fire to please Almighty God.

While offering my thanks and gratitude to those who are running the country's industries, particularly the oil and gas industry, I call upon them all to continue their efforts to prove to the world that they can put into motion the country's economic wheels through their own thinking and hard work. God willing, they, by bringing the glad news of full operation of the oil and gas industries and petrochemical complex in the not too distant future, will bring brightness and happiness to the eyes and hearts of the people of Iran. Thanks to your struggle in this sacred work, you will prove it to the world that the postwar economic pressure will not force us to become affiliated to any country.

The counterrevolutionaries, inside and outside the country, and the rightist and leftist colonialists are waging propaganda in every field that the postwar economic pressure will break the young Islamic regime's back. They must take such hope to their graves! Such people, who have prepared themselves for a lengthy struggle amid the bombings and in every tragedy, will never show

the slightest flexibility vis-a-vis global arrogance. It is obvious that the postwar shortcomings will not be eliminated rapidly and it will take several years until the shortages are removed.

Those dear ones, who are working in the factories affiliated with the country's light and heavy industries, oil and gas, mines and energy, post, telegraph, and telephone, roads and transportation and other centers, should think of God and avoid listening to the enemies' propaganda. They should strive firmly and steadfastly to put into motion the country's economic and industrial wheels. Today the world is watching us with a magnifying glass to see what we are doing and how far we are capable of challenging difficulties.

Today, your old father, Khomeyni, is calling upon you, all the workers, the industrial experts, and specialists to be alert with all your might so that our people are not again trapped by the superpowers and major powers.

The postwar difficulties will arise one after another, and our young system will stand against them firmly like a mountain, God willing. And the dear people, under the pressure of life and economic wheels, as they have tolerated so far for the sake of God and His religion, will remain steadfast in the future too, with all in their power. Otherwise, all the endeavors of these years of pain, anxiety, and pride will be destroyed. The people's vigilance in the present circumstances is one of the factors contributing to their victory against falsehood, and the people should not imagine that the infiltrating agents of the United States and arrogance have abandoned their satanic tricks. The possibility of their emergence and obstruction exist everywhere and in every topic. Careful watch should be maintained lest secret hands publicize that the war has ended while the country's situation remains unchanged. Do the effects of the war disappear within 1 or 2 years?

I offer to kiss the hands and arms of all those who are sincerely and without expectation striving to secure the country's independence and self-sufficiency. Once again, I advise you to rely on God and never submit to the East and the West. The people must make their own decision; either consumerism and comfort or tolerance of hardship with independence. This issue might take several years, but no doubt our people will choose the second alternative which will lead to independence, honor, and pride.

There is no need for me to remind you of the importance of oil in the world equations and international economy and also the immense role played by the oil industry and energy in world countries and their policies. God willing, the responsible officials, with full attention, observation and care, will safeguard these treasures and God-given fluid resources and will strive to expand and make a much better use of these resources as well as possible; and may God give them success in their efforts to meet the needs of society and the barefooted ones, and give priority to the deprived regions.

May Almighty God maintain this sacred morale of selflessness and self-sacrifice in all the workers, employees, and experts until the realization of independence and full self-sufficiency. May God bless the souls of their dear martyrs, and may He grant health to the war-disabled. May He return the MIA's and POW's to the homeland and to the embrace of their dear families. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 10 Jan 1989

Further on Khomeyni Message

LD1001163189 Tehran IRNA in English 1458 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—In a historic message to Iranian workers particularly the oil industry personnel today, Imam Khomeyni called for efforts to turn the wheels of the country's economy by relying on "God and your own initiative."

"Strive for this sacred cause and prove to the world that post war economic pressure will never make us dependent on any country," stressed the leader of the Islamic revolution.

Imam Khomeyni castigated anti-revolutionaries both at home and abroad, and also Eastern and Western imperialism for their wishful thinking that post-war economic pressure will break the backbone of the Islamic system in Iran. "They will not live enough to see their wish fulfilled," he added.

"People who are ready for a long struggle despite hardships and bombardments will never show any flexibility to global arrogance. "Can the war effects be eliminated within a year or two?" asked the imam and made it clear "it is obvious, post-war shortcomings will not be removed quickly as it requires a few years to wipe out all shortages."

"I kiss the hands of those trying sincerely and selflessly, to make the country independent and self-sufficient," said the founder of the Islamic Republic who told Iranian Muslims to "rely on God and not bow to the East or the West."

"They (people) should make their choice, either comfort and gluttony or hardships and independence... I am sure our people will select the latter course, the path of independence, dignity and honour," the imam said.

The imam's message was in response to Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh's letter concerning progress so far made in the country's oil industry.

In his letter, Aqazadeh briefed Imam Khomeyni on the success of the oil industry personnel in maintaining the outflow of oil and repairing damaged oil installations during the Iraqi-imposed war.

"Dear ones working in the light and heavy industries, the oil, gas and mining sectors, and in ministries and other centers think of God, and strive to turn the wheels of the country's economy without lending your ears to the enemies' propaganda," the imam advised.

"Today, your aging father wants you all: workers, industrialists and experts to be extremely cautious not to allow our people to be trapped by the superpowers and others again," he added.

Post-war difficulties wer cropping up one after the other, said the imam and expressed hope that the Iranian people would powerfully overcome the problems as they have resisted heavy economic pressure for the sake of God and Islam.

The leader of the Islamic Republic also lauded Iranian workers particularly those at the oil industry for their hard efforts and devotion both before and after the victory of the Islamic revolution and during the nearly 8 year old war.

"Indeed," the imam added, "you have rendered most valuable services to the Islamic revolution and your homeland under the most crucial conditions."

To sum up, it is important to add the devoted personnel of the oil industry by relying on God and their selfless efforts in maintaining the country's oil exports at their highest level and repairing damaged installations have saved the revolution face and lent dignity to Iranian Muslims, concluded Imam Khomeyni.

Commentary Lauds Message

LD1101132689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the imam of the ummah, in reply to a letter and report by the oil minister on achievements in the oil industry and the efforts of its personnel, in an important message paid tribute to all employees of the country's industries, factories, and mines for their efforts and self-sacrifice. The leader of the Islamic revolution, in this message explained the countries present circumstances and the need to remain vigilant in the face of conspiracies of global arrogance, and drew the future path of the Islamic revolution. He graciously said: The people should make their own decision: either consumerism and comfort or tolerating hardship with independence. This issue might take several years, but no doubt our people will choose the second alternative, which will lead to independence honor, and pride [passage omitted] The imam of the ummah graciously set consumerism and comfort against tolerating hardship. History is a witness that those countries, which for the sake of comfort and economic abundance were forced to open their borders to foreign investments and to resort to borrowing from abroad, reached relative comfort. However, as a result of gradual accumulation of foreign debt, they lost control of their economy and faced serious problems in trying to safeguard their political independence. The imam of the ummah's message indicates that the best path toward reconstruction and the country's economic revival is to rely on the country's resources, possibilities, and expert manpower to safeguard our independence. [passage omitted]

The Muslim nation of Iran, as it has proved in the past 10 years that it is prepared to tolerate all hardship and shortcomings, has also prepared itself for any situation during the reconstruction period. However, what can undermine the steadfastness of the oppressed masses, apart from the propaganda of global arrogance and its domestic agents, is the existence of inequalities and economic discrimination. The people cannot remain patient when they see that at a time when the majority of people are putting up with hardship and economic pressure, a group is enjoying the best economic comfort. Therefore, simultaneous with the reconstruction and the country's economic revival, steps should be taken seriously and powerfully to implement social justice and fair distribution of wealth in society.

Khomeyni Answers Questions of Azari-Qomi, Qadiri

46400049 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Oct 88 p 3

[Text] Political Service—About 2 months ago Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, a member of the Qom Society of Seminary Teachers and an official of the RESALAT foundation and newspaper, sent a letter to His Holiness Imam Khomeyni mentioning his background in the aforementioned centers along with the criticism that has sometimes come from some individuals and groups concerning his positions and accomplishments. He asked for the imam's exalted opinion concerning himself and how to continue his cooperation with the Society of Seminary Teachers and the newspaper RESALAT. His holiness the imam also answered this letter. The text of the reply from the imam of the nation is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty

To Hojjat ol-Eslam Azari-Qomi, may his excellence continue,

With greetings and prayers, I have always been and continue to be concerned about you, and it never crosses my mind, God forbid, that you would do anything against Islam. You are one of the revolution's learned, combative, and sympathetic people. By writing good articles and essays you try to guide people on the correct

path. I cannot say anything about the newspaper RE
LAT and the respected Society of Seminary TeacESA-
(may Almighty God assist them). You should acthers
whatever way you and the society consider proper. t in
have said or written anything in these areas, I have ac If I
in the way I considered advisable. May God protect cted
to aid Islam and the Muslims. Peace be upon you. you

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 67/6/28 [19 September 1988]

Following the imam of the nation's answer to the q
tions of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Qadiri, a schques-
from the Qom Seminary, concerning chess and musolar
instruments and after the imam expressed regresical
certain theological conclusions contrary to the requt at
ments of Islam, the former sent another letter to uire-
imam praising him and expressing thanks for the ans the
of the leader of the revolution to his letter and for swer
clarification of issues. Because it is possible that peo the
contrary to the imam's intentions, could misuse pple,
letter, he asked his holiness to express his own view that
vs.

In answer, while mentioning that we must try to br
down the walls of ignorance and superstition in oreak
that we may reach the limpid fountain of the pure Isrder
of Muhammad (peace be upon him), the imam of slam
nation said: I consider you one of my old and gf the
friends, and I will not forget your efforts in teaching good
discussion and your help in all areas. The text of and
holiness the imam's answer to Hojjat ol-Eslam f his
Moslemin Qadiri's letter is as follows: val-

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionat
te

To Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Qadiri, may
excellence continue y his

With greetings and prayers for your success in im
menting the commands of Islam. Your first letter and nple-
answer had the air of a school, lessons, and a lecture- d my
I consider you a religious scholar and a theolog Yet
expert. I have always prayed to God that you yo gical
people would be able to solve the nation's com bung
problems in various areas. I consider you to be one of plex
old and good friends. I will not forget your suppor f my
study and discussion, and your help in all areas. We n rt in
try to break down the walls of ignorance and superstimust
in order to reach the limpid fountain of the pure Islaition
Muhammad (peace be upon him). The strangest thin m of
the world today is this very Islam. Its salvation dema g in
sacrifices, and you must pray that I will be one o ands
sacrifices as well. May God confirm you. Peace and f its
mercy of God be upon you. d the

[Signed] Ruhollah al-Musavi al-Khomeyni

[Dated] 67/7/12 [4 October 1988]

IRNA Links Pan Am Downing, U.S. Hostages

LD1001183389 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] London, Jan. 10, IRNA—Reports have re-emerged in Washington that a senior American military intelligence officer was among the 259 passengers and crew killed in the Pan-Am crash over Scotland last month.

Shortly after the crash, NBC News reported that the officer was a station chief in Beirut of the infamous Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), but this was denied by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which is forbidden to identify intelligence officers.

The London INDEPENDENT reported from Washington Tuesday that speculation had again resurfaced following the admission by the U.S. that six and not five government employees were among the victims and that they may have been working on a clandestine operation.

Those so far identified include two diplomatic security officers, a security and intelligence command major, a Peace Corps volunteer and a member of the Justice Department. The sixth has still not formally been named.

With such a pool of U.S. officials from the Middle East, the paper suggested that they could have been drawn together by the Reagan administration to make one last attempt to free Americans reportedly held hostage in Lebanon.

Investigations into the crash currently focus upon Czechoslovakia, which is said to be the only country that manufactures Semtex plastic explosive that is thought to have been behind the sudden breaking up of the Pan-Am jumbo, although there are speculations the airliner was downed by a missile since the area in which it came crashing down was a military zone.

The only unchecked baggage so far reported aboard the jumbo were mail-bags under the protection of the U.S. military in Frankfurt, that were said to have been placed in the front luggage compartment, where the explosion is thought to have occurred.

However, last Sunday's crash of another Boeing aircraft in the U.K. has cast doubts over the American theory of sabotage, which observers believed to be a scapegoat to distract attention from the shortcomings in the leading American aircraft industry itself.

TEHRAN TIMES Cited on UK 'Threats'

LD1001150889 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Britain should be more concerned about its ties with Iran and than making "breezy statements" on how Tehran could do more to bring about the release of British hostages in Lebanon, a daily paper said Tuesday [as received].

The TEHRAN TIMES, responding to statements made by a British Foreign Office minister, said such statements can appear as "threats" from London to slow down the face of improving relations.

"Threats can also be met with threats," the paper said in its editorial. "But it would be far more preferable that friendly feelings are exchanged between Tehran and London."

British Foreign Minister William Waldegrave after meeting Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Paris Monday indicated that bilateral relations could not be repaired fully as long as three British citizens remained in captivity in Lebanon.

Meanwhile in London Tuesday friends of one of the hostages, journalist John McCarthy, handed in a petition to the Prime Minister's Office urging the government to do more to seek the release of the British hostages.

Speaking on British television Monday, Waldegrave acknowledged that the plight of foreign hostages in Beirut was "not directly a problem for the Iranian Government" but felt it could do more than the British Government.

"Now such a brash statement... by a senior official from the British Foreign Office will be nothing other than productive and appears close to violation" of the November agreement between the two countries not to interfere in each other's affairs, TEHRAN TIMES said.

But regarding Iran's assistance in the hostage issue, "it has not spared any effort before and it will do all in its power for a solution in future also."

However, the paper added: "Iran also expects that similar assistance should be provided to Iran on behalf of its own people who were kidnapped in Lebanon, of whom there is no trace for the past several years."

Dr Velayati said Monday he had again offered the British official Iran's promise to do what it could in the case but that Britain should also do its best in finding four Iranian hostages held by Lebanese Christian Phalange forces.

Velayati Assesses Results of Paris Conference

LD1001135689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent on his return to Tehran after participating in the chemical weapons conference in Paris, Foreign Minister Velayati described the results of the conference talks. We now broadcast Mr Velayati's remarks:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the 8 years of the imposed war, Iraq repeatedly used chemical weapons, and the Islamic Republic of Iran informed the United Nations and world public opinion about this in various forms and through various channels. Unfortunately, political obstructions posed by big and influential powers and the imposition of their influence on international affairs blocked the efforts to call serious attention to the Iraqi regime's crime. This was until the cease-fire and Iraqi's continued use of chemical weapons—inside its own territory against the Kurds. This prevented the big powers from imposing their control on further covering up news about the use of chemical weapons, which subsequently incited the world public opinion against the Iraqi regime.

One must say that the main impetus behind convening the Paris conference was, in fact, the Iraqi crimes in using chemical weapons. However, during the past weeks and months, Iraq's supporters have been trying to prevent any further pressure being brought on the Iraqi ruling regime over its use of chemical weapons. Despite all these efforts, the conference agenda was such that everyone in the world viewed Iraq as an example of a state which uses chemical weapons and a state which acts against mankind's welfare. The Iranian delegation's remarks at the conference were widely reflected in the world media. This gave a new shape to the conference, creating a real, widely felt wish among the world population to call for serious combat against the production and use of chemical weapons.

We hope that through the serious work by experts from various countries in the committee for compiling the final conference statement, suitable groundwork will be laid for the future Geneva disarmament commission, so that more positive and effective steps can be taken in order to update the Geneva protocol of 1925. [end recording]

Briefs Majlis Speaker

LD1001213489 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today briefed Majlis speaker on the ongoing Paris chemical disarmament conference.

Velayati also reported to Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his talks with the U.N. chief and several participant foreign ministers during the conference.

The Iranian minister during his speech on the inaugural day last Saturday detailed the Iraqi regime's wanton use of chemical weapons and warned that failure to punish Iraq would set a dangerous precedent for the whole world.

Khamene'i Asks Commerce Ministry To Reassess Role

LD1101101389 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The Commerce Ministry should return to its original role as the body overseeing trading practices and activities, President 'Ali Khamene'i said.

"Under normal conditions there is no need for the government to carry the heavy burden of buying and selling," the president told a group of Commerce Ministry officials.

"Our brave, smart and mature people are not lacking anything and can do the job themselves," he said adding that the private sector should not be allowed to abuse its freedom.

Under exceptional conditions such as the war the government had unlimited authority in the country's affairs but in normal times it should hand over responsibility to the people, such as in trade, the president added.

Khamene'i said the ideal Commerce Ministry would be a supervisory body with legal levers to oversee trading practices. "Although this ideal is not achievable at the moment, the more we get closer to it the better."

The Commerce Ministry has been in charge of well over half of foreign trade while only 20 percent of imports has been carried out by the private sector. Cooperatives have also been active in this field.

The Constitution has given the government responsibility over foreign trade but there has long been controversy over how much of it should be focused on supervision and how much on direct import and export activities.

"When we talk about foreign trade we consider the comfort and welfare of the people as well as the good of the society," the president said.

Khamene'i To Visit Austria 'Next Month'

LD1101094989 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Vienna, Jan. 11, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i will pay an official visit to Austria next month, according to Austria's foreign minister Alois Mock. If the visit goes ahead on 23 or 25 February, it would be President Khamene'i's first trip to a European nation.

During his seven years as president, Khamene'i has paid state visits to Pakistan, Syria, Libya, and Algeria and attended non-aligned conference summits in India and Zimbabwe.

Speaking on Austrian television news, Mock added that he would travel to Iran in June.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Defense Ministry Seminar

LD1001214689 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, IRNA—Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday [10 January] said that a harmonious relationship among various branches of the Army is of great importance.

Addressing the sixth seminar of 'ulema in charge of political-ideological departments of the Defence Ministry, he added that officials in charge of political-ideological departments and military commanders should take their responsibilities very seriously. He reiterated that discipline in Army and all other institutions would improve management.

The two-day seminar is attended by Defence Minister Brigadier Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, military commanders and other officials.

Czech Official, Shafe'i Preview Trade Protocol

LD1001121589 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Czechoslovakia is to import industrial goods including textiles, leather and television sets from Iran in return for raw materials and machinery needed by Iranian industries, visiting Czech Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Mr. Nemek said today.

Nemek told Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'i that his country is ready to transfer technological know-how for cement, sugar, rubber industries and for power stations.

The meeting took place on the eve of a visit to Tehran of a high ranking Czech political and economic delegation.

The two countries are to sign a new economic protocol during a joint economic session in Tehran next summer.

The Czech deputy minister arrived in Tehran on January 6 at the head of an economic delegation.

Narcotics, Smuggling Gang Discovered in Southeast

LD1001140189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] In continuation of the relentless fight against narcotics' smugglers and on the eve of the implementation of the Anti-Narcotics Act which was approved by the Expediency Discernment Council, the Kerman Islamic Revolution Committee Guards, in a coordinated and preplanned operation, discovered one of the biggest international narcotics' smuggling gangs in southeast Iran. They arrested 46 leaders and members of the gang.

The intelligence and operations deputy commander of the Kerman Islamic Revolution Committee, said in an exclusive interview with a Kerman Central News Unit correspondent that this big gang—whose leaders have so far confessed to transporting, buying, selling, and distributing more than 52 tons of opium, in addition to large-scale narcotics contraband—had been engaged in disturbing the peace on a number of roads, smuggling arms, and providing equipment and supplies to big narcotics smuggling convoys.

He said further that in addition to large-scale distribution of narcotics in Kerman and Sistan and Baluchestan Provinces, the gang members had been very active in Yazd, Esfahan, Fars, Bushehr, Khuzestan, and Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh Provinces. A number of the leaders of the gang have confessed to having had contacts with international narcotics' smuggling networks in southern Persian Gulf states, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

He later pointed out that the gang members have also confessed to armed robberies involving theft of a large number of vehicles and transporting dozens of weapons. At present, more than 20 assorted vehicles and 30 assorted weapons have been seized by Committee Guards and the Kerman Intelligence Department in connection with the gang.

Regarding the method of discovery and routing this big narcotics smuggling gang, he said that following information received on transportation of narcotics and weapons by the gang, Bafq Islamic Revolution Guards arrested a number of its members. This led other revolution committee units in Kerman Province to increase their efforts. With the discovery of the complex method of communication between the members of the gang who were active in a number of provinces, all the leaders and principal members of the gang, numbering 46, were arrested during a complicated and preplanned operation. This big and horrifying gang was completely destroyed.

The Central News Unit, Kerman.

Qom Lecturers Willing To Accept Soviet Students

LD1001234989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Following the imam of the ummah's historical message to the leader of the USSR, the association of lecturers at Qom's seminary have sent a message to the imam of the ummah in which they praised and expressed appreciation for this valuable and worthy deed of that grand and eminent leader of the Shi'a world who has opened a new chapter in the political and cultural history of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this message the seminary lecturers declared their readiness to accept students, researchers, and scholars of the righteous path from all over the world, particularly from the country that was the subject of the address of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Afghan Coalition Figure Praises 'Understanding'

LD0601210289 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 6 Jan 89

[Text] Qom, Jan. 6, IRNA—A member of Central Council of Afghanistan's Nasr organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Irfani Friday praised as "promising" the understanding between the Tehran and Peshawar based mujahidin groups.

In a ceremony in the holy city, Hoj. Irfani who is representative of eight-group Afghan coalition in Iran said the understanding has entailed favourable effects.

He described Moscow's willingness to negotiate with mujahidin as a "key political victory" for Afghan Muslims and stressed Afghan people and mujahidin will never and under no circumstances deviate from their Islamic revolutionary ideals.

Calling on Afghans from all walks of life to assist their Muslim brethren who are fighting inside Afghanistan, Hoj. Irfani said any indifference towards the noble ideals of the Islamic revolution in Afghanistan at this crucial juncture is an "obvious treason."

Commentary Discusses Mujahidin 'Struggle'

LD0701140789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Station commentary: "Responsibility for the Formation of Afghanistan's Future Government Rests With the Muslim People of Afghanistan"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Good day to you, dear listeners. The representatives of the Afghan mujahidin and the Soviet Government were not able to reach any specific results with regard to Afghanistan's problem in their negotiations held yesterday in Islamabad, Pakistan. The second round of direct talks between Afghanistan's Islamic Resistance, and the Soviet Union—although it did not make further progress—was, however, important because it was the first time that representatives of the mujahidin—comprising the eight-party coalition and seven-party alliance based in Iran and Pakistan, respectively—took part in these talks. [passage omitted]

The mujahidin representatives once again emphasized that Soviet troops should withdraw from their country on the set date, that is, 15 February, making this the first condition for the establishment of peace in their country. This is at a time when the representatives of the Afghan parties have rejected the possibility of the present government in Kabul participating in the future government in Afghanistan. They state that the right to determine the future government of that country rests with the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Even though the representatives of the Soviet Union and of the Afghan mujahidin were not able to agree, they did express their wish to continue negotiations, with the date and place to be announced later.

Despite the two rounds of talks between the representatives of the Soviet Government and the mujahidin of Afghanistan, it is natural that the Islamic resistance of Afghanistan would not be too optimistic with regard to the political solution to the Afghanistan problem being advanced by the Soviet Union. The mujahidin, during their 10 years of struggle, reached the conclusion that in order to achieve true freedom and independence for

their country, the influence of the West and the East must be terminated. The mujahidin harbor suspicion with regard to the Afghanistan question and the political solution proposed by the Soviet Union because Moscow, in its latest political moves concerning this problem, has also held talks with non-jihad elements.

Contact with Zahir Shah and the possibility of the latter's participation in a future Afghanistan government that fits Moscow's general vision of a coalition government, with the extensive participation of political groups, can be counted among these political moves. On the other hand, the point made by the Soviet representative in the Afghanistan negotiations that Moscow is prepared to officially recognize any new government in Kabul in which all groups and parties in that country participate, does not mean that Najibullah and the present ruling party will be forgotten. It is merely another case, which, according to political observers, shows that the Soviet Union is displaying more realism concerning a political solution to the Afghanistan problem.

Six more weeks remain before the remaining Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union's insistance that the unilateral cease-fire declared by Najibullah should be accepted by the mujahidin has had the effect of slowing down the trend of the negotiations. Meanwhile, political propaganda nourished from the collusion between the West and East with regard to the Afghanistan problem, aimed at placing pressure on the Islamic resistance of Afghanistan, has intensified. This propaganda predicts that there will be civil war in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops. On the same basis, the propagandists intend to impose on the country a government which is at odds with the demands of the Afghan people.

The people of Afghanistan, however, having achieved long years of political and military experience, are now on the threshold of victory and undoubtedly, after the withdrawal of foreign forces from their country, they will be in a position to take their destinies in their own hands and will form a government based on their own religious beliefs and cultural interests.

Soviet officials have expressed certain doubts over the withdrawal of all their troops from Afghanistan, and political observers do not rule out the possibility of continued fighting in Afghanistan. In this respect, Afghanistan's mujahidin, both Sunnis and Shi'as, have closed ranks a little more. While maintaining alertness and by paying careful attention to the existing sensitive conditions of Afghanistan's Islamic revolution, they should extend their vigilence and their military and political alertness.

Global arrogance and the two world powers of the East and West are trying to sow discord among the ranks of the mujahidin, and also to push the Islamic identity of Afghanistan's resistance toward a joint nationalistic-atheistic identity in order to control the struggle of the Afghan mujahidin to achieve independence and freedom, and to form a government that responds to the demands and needs of the people. The aim of the superpowers' collusion is to inflict harm on the 10-year struggle of the people of Afghanistan, a struggle that was carried out in order to maintain high humanistic and Islamic values. It involved over a million martyrs or disabled in the path of the Islamic revolution.

Even if such a serious objective is realized the consequences of the victories of the Afghan mujahidin—the regional and international impact of which is known to everyone—will be limited. Therefore, it is time for the Muslim people of Afghanistan and the Afghan mujahidin to be aware of and to think carefully about their future. It is very difficult to reach decisions under volatile political conditions and the tense situation in Afghanistan. However, experience has shown that whenever the various strata of a nation are united, they achieve impressive victories.

Nepal

13 Fined for Embezzlement, Abuse of Power

BK0401152189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 4 Jan 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 4 (AFP)—A special commission here has handed down fines or jail terms on 13 people found guilty of misuse of authority and involvement in embezzling some 1.68 million dollars from a state-run bank.

The Commission for Prevention of Abuse of Authority (CPAA) found the 13 guilty Tuesday of abuse of position or corruption after a two-year investigation into the case involving the embezzlement of 1.68 million U.S. dollars from the state-run Rastriya Banijya Bank (RBB), Radio Nepal said.

The 13 were ordered to pay a total of more than two million dollars in fines and compensation.

They included Punya Keshari Upadhyaya, former general manager of the RBB, who was jailed for six months on corruption charges involving assets he accepted as collateral for industrial loans from the bank. He was also ordered to pay compensation totalling some 27,300 U.S. dollars. He was suspended in 1987 following complaints of abuse of authority against him by bank staff.

Two other bank employees were jailed for up to nine months and fined, and a further seven were fined or ordered to pay compensation.

The commission also handed down heavy sentences on three Indian businessmen who had used bribery and other corrupt methods to obtain loans from the bank totalling more than 20 million rupiahs (800,000 U.S. dollars).

They were unable to repay the loans because they had invested heavily in jute, whose price tumbled by more than 45 percent between 1986 and early 1987, and a small match factory they had put up as collateral was not large or profitable enough to service the loan.

The three were said to have returned to India, but the commission found them guilty of fraud and sentenced them in absentia.

It ordered Arun Singh Jain jailed for three years and to be fined 830,000 U.S. dollars, while his elder brother Khem Chandra Jain was fined 988,000 dollars.

Ratal Lal Jain was ordered jailed for a year.

Nepal has an extradition treaty with India.

Pakistan

Official Says No Visa Request From Zahir Shah

BK1001142189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan 10 (AFP)—Pakistan Tuesday denied receiving a request for a visa by former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, living in exile in Rome, official sources said.

Reports in the local press had said that ex-King Zahir Shah had applied for a visa at the Pakistani mission in Rome so he could participate in efforts towards a comprehensive solution to the nine-year-old Afghan problem.

An informed source told the official news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN: "Had the king applied for a visa to visit Pakistan, Islamabad would have been informed. We have no such information or request." [passage omitted]

Observers here said that, because both Moscow and some components of the rebel alliance had spoken favourably of Zahir Shah, it was possible that he would play a role in the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

These observers said that in view of the projected meeting of the rebels' consultative council sometime before February 15, a visit by the former Afghan monarch to Pakistan could not be ruled out.

4 Killed, 13 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast

BK1101111389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] A bomb exploded in a spare parts shop at Charsadda bus stand in Peshawar today, killing 4 people and injuring 13 others. The injured have been admitted to Lady Reading Hospital and their condition is stated to be out of danger. Some shops and nearby standing buses were also damaged in the blast.

DAWN Editorial Welcomes Bhutto-Gandhi Talks

BK1001151889 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Jan 89 p 7

[Editorial: "A Good Beginning"]

[Text] After the freeze in the troubled relations between India and Pakistan which lasted quite a few years, we are witnessing the first signs of a thaw. There has been a major display of diplomatic purposiveness at the level where it counts. The talks between Prime Ministers Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto which were held in a cordial and even an upbeat atmosphere have been followed by the conclusion of three agreements. The symbolism in the case of two of these is perhaps more important than the areas of agreement that they cover.

However, there is no denying the importance of the one that binds the two countries to a categorical pledge not to attack each other's nuclear installations and facilities "directly or indirectly". Agreed to in principle three years ago when the late President Ziaul Haq met Mr Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, an actual accord had hitherto eluded the two countries. As both leaders stressed more than once during their joint press conference, these are the first agreements between the two countries since the conclusion of the Simla accord—a gap of 16 years. Mr Rajiv Gandhi's trip to Pakistan was also the first by an Indian Prime Minister for 28 years.

These events in themselves, quite apart from the substance of the discussion in Islamabad, provide a glimmer of hope that the stalled efforts to improve Indo-Pakistan relations are on the verge of being revived once more. Ms. Bhutto has been invited to pay a visit to India and given the improved climate, there is no reason why it should not take place fairly soon. This should take the process of rapprochement a vital step further. There is thus a sense of expectation on both sides, fuelled in no small measure by the accession to power of a democratic government in Pakistan. That democratic governments can get along better with each other is, however, an assumption that has yet to be proved right empirically. But it need not be dismissed out of hand either.

The important thing is that the fair breeze currently blowing should be caught so that quick results can accrue from the secretaries-level talks which are expected to start soon to discuss contentious issues like that of the Siachen glacier. If for any reason time is wasted, the present momentum can soon peter out—which will be a pity since the stars appear to be more favourable for breaking the logjam in India-Pakistan relations now than at any time during the last two decades.

All the same, expectations need to be kept in some sort of a check since euphoria can be as dangerous a state of mind as morbidity or paranoia. A change of leadership alone, while it may be important in its own way, is by itself an insufficient basis for a dramatic improvement in ties between two countries as pock-marked by suspicion

and conflict as those between India and Pakistan. There is a range of issues over which they still do not see eye to eye. These include the Siachen glacier, charges of supporting terrorism against each other, the nuclear question and the perception that India, as the largest country in South Asia, is consumed by the ambition to play the role of a regional policeman.

The obvious difference in the two countries' positions on Kashmir came out clearly when Mr Gandhi, in reply to a question, said that the Kashmiris had already chosen governments in several general elections in the Indian-occupied territory. Pakistan, on the other hand, stands for honouring agreed UN resolutions which, recognising the dispute over Kashmir, call for a plebiscite which will actualise the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Afghanistan also is a point of friction, with India and Pakistan holding divergent views about the shape of a post-withdrawal government in Kabul.

Although a conducive atmosphere can help promote the chances of a settlement between the two countries, hard and patient negotiations lie ahead before there can be progress in areas of greatest disagreement. If expectations are unrealistic at this stage, the mood could quickly sour if progress is inordinately delayed. At any rate, the new government in this country has made the first gestures—by dropping the no-war pact proposal which India found unpalatable and by exuding a lot of goodwill towards the other side. If it be not too partisan a way of putting it, it is now for India to reciprocate these gestures.

Siachen is a touchstone in this respect; progress on this can give a powerful boost to improvement in other areas. At some time or other there also has to be an Indian willingness to discuss, besides Kashmir, the nuclear issue within a regional context, otherwise the danger of the nuclear race between the two countries getting out of hand will always remain. All these problems add up to a formidable tally and tackling them is going to take all the goodwill and earnestness that the two sides can muster. But meanwhile there must be the satisfaction that a good beginning has been made which, if pressed to advantage, should see some new winds blowing between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Commentary Sees New Era in Ties With USSR

BK0901040689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Sultan Ahmed commentary]

[Text] Ever since its inception, Pakistan has endeavored to have good friendly relations with all the countries of the world, especially its neighbors, as the basic fundamentals of its foreign policy. With this aim in view, relations with the Soviet Union had always been given top priority. The newly elected government of the People's Party also reiterated its aim to further improve the relations which had been successfully augmented by the late prime minister, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. A beginning toward this has already been made and fully reciprocated by the Soviet leadership. This can be rightly termed as the beginning of a new chapter in Pak-Soviet relations.

The Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, has sent a special message of greetings to Ms Benazir Bhutto, reflecting fully the good-will gesture of his government for the neighboring country, Pakistan. The observations made by Mr Gorbachev about the changes that have taken place in Pakistan are most appropriate at a time when there seems to be the nearing of an end to the conflict in Afghanistan. The indications to this effect have come through during the just-concluded visit of the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, who is also his country's ambassador to Kabul. The message of goodwill brought by Mr Vorontsov speaks well of the future relationship expected between the two countries.

Mr Gorbachev, in his message, has observed that the changes that have taken place in Pakistan have opened new opportunities for improving bilateral relations and restoring them to a level that had been achieved under the late Pakistani leader, Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

The Soviet president has also referred to the unresolved problem of Afghanistan, which he has himself described as a conflict that had remained a bleeding wound for several years and expressed the hope that Pakistan would help promote a constructive and productive intra-Afghan dialogue for a settlement.

In her thanks conveyed to the Soviet leader, Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed the hope that an early settlement of the Afghanistan problem would open a new chapter in Pak-Soviet relations. She said Mr Vorontsov's visit has provided the most useful opportunity for exchange of views to proceed toward a peaceful settlement of the Afghan problem. The prime minister also expressed her appreciation for the Soviet decision to assist in the expansion of the Karachi Steel Mills. She said that a minister would be designated to go to Moscow to further discuss the strengthening of bilateral economic cooperation.

Moscow has indicated it is considering specific proposals to enhance the level of economic cooperation with Pakistan. This includes a decision in principle to help expand the capacity of the steel mills to 3 million tons.

This means that a dawn of democracy in Pakistan after a period of more than a decade is going to open a new era in Pak-Soviet relations. This opportunity will give Pakistan a chance not only to expand its commercial, cultural, and social relations, but also to welcome the keen interest in participation in various development projects, which was shown by the Soviet Union last year at the time of the observance of the 40th anniversary of Pak-Soviet relations.

ADB, Netherlands Approve Loans for
BK0801053289 Islamabad Domestic Servi
0200 GMT 8 Jan 89

for Gas Project
ervice in Urdu

[Excerpt] The Asian Development Ban
approved two loans worth more than $1
the third development program of the Pir
in Pakistan. A Netherlands bank is a
another loan of $15 million for this pro
omitted]

Bank [ADB] has
$110 million for
Pirkoh gas project
also providing
rogram. [passage

Sri Lanka

President Premadasa To End State of
BK1001142589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH
1400 GMT 10 Jan 89

of Emergency
ATH in English

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Jan 10 (LANKAP
Lankan President R. Premadasa said toda
that he did not intend to reintroduce a
gency in the country. Five and half years u
emergency was enough. The emergency la

PUVATH)—Sri
day in Colombo
a state of emer-
s under a state of
lapses this week.

President Premadasa who was addressing
in Colombo for provincial and district
including provincial council chief ministe
saviya [public service] program, also annc
those including university and school st
those who were being charged in courts of l
released. Already a large number of them h

ing a conference
t administrators
ters on the Jana-
nounced that all
students except
f law were being
had been freed.

Mr Premadasa said the police service is ve
safeguard the rights of the people and to p
was only when a situation could not be co
police alone that the armed services were
times of peace, the police was responsible
order.

very necessary to
protect them. It
controlled by the
re called in. In
ble for law and

He said that even the smallest police statio
a strength of at least 100 policemen. Recru
policemen will be to the same police stati
an applicant lives in.

ion should have
ruitment of new
tion in the area

President Premadasa said everything pos
done to create peace in the country.

ossible must be

He also broke the glad news that four
children would be provided with a free
and that neccessary funds for this would b
the government. [passage omitted]

million school
mid-day meal
be provided by

Information Minister's Staten
BK1101090689 Hong Kong AFP in English
11 Jan 89

ment
sh 0849 GMT

[Text] Colombo, Jan 11 (AFP)—Emergen
Lanka will be lifted Wednesday after bein
over five and a half years, a senior minist
here.

ncy rule in Sri
ng in force for
ster announced

Information Minister Festus Perera said the government was removing the emergency at midnight (1830 GMT) Wednesday, three days before it was due to end.

"The president (Ranasinghe Premadasa) is keen to release people against whom there are no charges," Mr. Perera told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting chaired by the president.

The emergency, which gives sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain people, was imposed in May 1983 to combat anti-government rebels and since then has been extended each month after parliamentary approval.

Mr. Premadasa told senior government officials here Tuesday that he had no plans to reimpose the emergency after it lapses on Sunday.

"It is enough we lived under emergency rule for five years. So I have decided not to reimpose the emergency. If anyone is in custody under the emergency, charges should be framed against him or he should be released.

"Peace is being restored in our country. Many who were under detention have been released," Mr. Premadasa said.

Another senior minister has said that hundreds of suspects detained under the emergency will automatically be freed after the sweeping law is withdrawn.

Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who was earlier in charge of national security said some 2,200 suspects were in custody by Christmas and some of them were being held under emergency laws.

The government has already announced the release of up to 600 detainees in the first week of January.

Mr. Athulathmudali told reporters two weeks ago that the government move was aimed at bringing the militant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) into the political process.

However, the group has failed to respond and is continuing a violent anti-government campaign. The JVP is not contesting the February 15 general elections, the first in 11 years.

Opposition Party Candidate, 2 Others Killed
BK1001151589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Colombo, Jan 10 (AFP)—Suspected Sinhalese militants assassinated a senior Sri Lankan opposition politician and two colleagues in an ambush near here Tuesday, officials said.

Militants believed to be from the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) opened fire on Indrapala Abeyweera, an assistant secretary of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), as he drove in his car at Panadura, police said.

Mr. Abeyweera, an SLFP candidate in February 15 parliamentary elections, and his companion Wijelal Mendis, also an SLFP candidate, died instantly, police said. The third victim was a party supporter.

They were the first candidates in the parliamentary election, the first in 11 years, to be assassinated, officials here said.

The violently anti-government JVP had links with the SLFP before December 19 presidential elections, but since then the JVP has issued statements bitterly criticising the moderate SLFP.

The JVP led a bloody insurrection against the SLFP government in 1971. It was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives.

3 Soldiers Killed, 4 Wounded in LTTE Ambush

BK1001124189 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1132 GMT 10 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 10 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Three Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and four others wounded when an Army route clearing party was ambushed by LTTE terrorists at Tampalakamam in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province district of Trincomalee yesterday, Indian High Commission sources told LANKAPUVATH. They said the terrorists had also removed one light machine gun and one rifle which had belonged to the victims.